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Inter-Arab Affairs

Libya Said Mediating League Relocation to Cairo

JN2409135390 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 23 Sep 90

[Mustafa Bakri dispatch from Cairo]

[Text] It has been learned in Cairo that Libya is mediating between Egypt and Tunisia to work out the details of relocating the Arab League headquarters to Cairo. Libya's Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi has been in touch on the telephone with Presidents Mubarak of Egypt and Zine El Abidine Ben Ali.

According to informed Egyptian sources, Libya's plan to settle the differences between Egypt and Tunisia calls for:

First, holding direct expert-level meetings between the two sides to sort out financial differences related to the League.

Second, the two sides' respecting the Arab League's decision to transfer the headquarters to Cairo, with Egypt consenting to fresh discussions on the return of the headquarters at the League meeting to be held in Tunis on 27 September, with the proviso that these discussions not affect the nature of the official resolution decreeing the return of the League headquarters to Egypt.

Third, Egypt and Tunisia's each submitting a legal memo setting out their respective arguments over the relocation of the League. Each will reply to the other's memo using legal documents and arguments, with Libya and other Arab states showing readiness to bridge the two countries' viewpoints.

President Mubarak is said to have shown complete readiness to accept whatever suggestions promise to resolve the differences between Egypt and Tunisia. Meanwhile, Tunisia has welcomed the Libyan offer, but asked for some time to study it.

'Imminent Dangers' of Crisis Noted at Congress

JN2209134090 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1015 GMT 22 Sep 90

[Text] Buenos Aires—Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary-general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, delivered a speech at the opening session of the seventh congress of the Federation of Arab-American Institutions and Clubs, FEAARAB, yesterday. He conveyed the greetings of struggler President Hafiz al-Asad to the Arab expatriates. He then discussed the current Arab situation and the challenges to Arab destiny from the Zionist enemy. He noted the imminent dangers posed to the Arab homeland, and Iraq in particular, if the current situation continues without a swift solution.

He said that the situation in the Gulf reflects a problem that is the first of its kind. It has changed world solidarity with the Arabs and their central issue, into solidarity against Iraq. The reason is Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and the subsequent arrival of foreign forces in the region. He stressed the importance of efforts to deal with the situation on the basis of the withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait and the restoration of the legitimate Kuwaiti Government in pursuance of the Arab summit resolution and the resolutions of the United Nations.

Palestinian Affairs

Gulf Policy Costs 'Arafat Access to Five States

PM2409113390 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 19 Sep 90 p 1

[Report by 'Abd-al-Nabi 'Abd-al-Sattar: "Five Arab States Refuse To Receive 'Arafat Because of His Position on Gulf Crisis"]

[Text] Five Arab capitals have, for the time being, refused to received PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. AL-WAFD has learned that 'Arafat had asked to visit three Gulf states and Egypt and Syria for talks with their leaders on ways of settling the Gulf crisis. The leaders of the five Arab states have also declined to answer messages 'Arafat recently sent them through his political advisers.

Most Arab states have decided to ban entry of Palestinians into their territories without an entry visa. Security authorities at the ports and airports of Egypt, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, and the Sultanate of Oman subject all incoming Palestinians to a stringent and thorough search for fear of attempts to smuggle arms and explosives into these countries to destabilize them.

AL-WAFD has learned that 'Arafat has decided to continually change his places of residence in Tunis and Baghdad for security reasons.

'Arafat had expressed support for Kuwait's invasion and for Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's policy.

Al-'Abbas Vows Palestinians Will Defend Iraq

JN2409121890 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1130 GMT 24 Sep 90

[Text] London, 24 Sep (INA)—Muhammad Abu-al-'Abbas, leader of the Palestine Liberation Front [PLF], has said in an interview with the British newspaper THE TIMES published today, that the moment American, British, or French forces attack Iraq, the Palestinians will attack out of self-defense in accordance with their capabilities. In the interview conducted yesterday by Douglas Petson [name as received], the paper's reporter in Baghdad, Abu-al-'Abbas said that the war is open on all fronts, noting that the Palestinians would retaliate strongly if Iraq was attacked by America and its allies. He noted that we did not plan to attack European and American people.

He said: When America dispatched its forces to the Gulf, the Palestinians became dutybound to fight and stand alongside Iraq, because America is the enemy. We will use all methods to defend ourselves. We hope this will not happen. He added that when America sends its planes to bomb Baghdad, that will be terrorism.

The British newspaper noted in the same report a statement made by Nayif Hawatimah, secretary-general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, in which he reiterated his support for Iraq, saying: The Arab masses will not remain silent when the Americans attack Iraq.

The paper also published an excerpt from a statement made by George Habash last week in which he said: Our fingers are on the trigger to fire at American and Western interests if Iraq is attacked.

DFLP Asks U.S. To Condemn Israeli Practices

JN2409200190 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 24 Sep 90

[Text] The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] called on the United States today to condemn the policy of terrorist repression being carried out by the Israeli forces of occupation in the occupied territories. It is urged to do so to show the world how concerned it is over human rights while amassing its fleets under the pretext of defending human rights, according to a statement issued by the DFLP in Damascus.

DFLP's Hawatimah on Gulf Crisis, Syria

JN2409161190 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 22 Sep 90 p 6

[Interview with Nayif Hawatimah, secretary-general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, by Wafa' 'Amr and Jamal al-'Alawi in Amman; date not given]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Reporter] Within the pan-Arab awakening our nation is experiencing, do you see a need for holding a new Palestine National Council [PNC] session to plot a new course in light of the retreats of the last PNC session?

[Hawatimah] We believe that the Algiers session, in truth, has made no retreats. In fact, it clearly highlighted the PLO's national program that has been implemented since 1974, and which the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine has had the honor of initiating and developing. The issue now is not reconsideration of the Algiers PNC resolutions, but rather reassessment of the course of the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue conducted under the U.S. umbrella and through Egyptian channels. Betting on the U.S. solution and the Egyptian role collapsed in the face of U.S. preconditions, as has the search for solutions to the Palestine question through seeking alternatives to the PLO, such as the attempt to form delegations from the West Bank and Gaza. Had we benefited from the experience of our people, and the Algerian, Angolan, and Namibian experiences, we would not have experienced the harsh and difficult circumstances that contradicted the PNC resolutions in Algiers. All these rejected the platform set by the racist and imperialist governments and insisted on the national platform.

We need to restore credibility to the Palestinian peace initiative and to the Palestinian national mechanism so as to struggle to implement this initiative and restore credibility to the Arab mechanism that was approved at the Casablanca and Baghdad summits. This Arab mechanism calls for a comprehensive solution, for balance, and for an international mechanism to resolve the Middle East issue through an international peace conference. We have wasted 20 months of U.S.-Palestinian dialogue that aimed only at searching for a PLO alternative as a prelude to nullifying the PLO's role and confining its role to submitting indirectly a list of names to the tripartite U.S.-Israeli-Egyptian guardianship so they could decide which Palestinian delegation from the West Bank and Gaza would negotiate with the Israeli Government.

We need to rectify our direction and policy along the lines that were approved in the PNC session in Algiers and to adhere to them in our struggle for an international conference as a basis for the dialogue with the Americans or the Europeans, and for the formation of a proper national mechanism. We have to work within the framework of a new PLO Central Council session and a new PNC session to restore credibility to our initiative and to adopt tactical stands whose principal components will be the following: The PLO as the negotiating party; an international conference for peace and the rejection of unilateral American handling of the issue; and acceptance of the participation of all parties and of the UN Security Council permanent members under UN supervision and on the basis of UN Resolutions No. 338 and 242 and legitimate national rights, foremost being the right to self-determination. A new development has emerged in our region; namely, the Gulf crisis. We have to develop the Palestinian peace initiative and the unified Arab initiative to hold an expanded international conference that links the Palestine question, the Gulf crisis, and the Arab-Israeli conflict.

[Reporter] The Gulf crisis has opened a new page between the DFLP [Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine] and Iraq. What are the characteristics of this page and the working mechanism on which you expect to agree?

[Hawatimah] For our part, it was not the Gulf crisis that opened a new page, but rather the developments in the Iraq-Iran war. Ever since Iranian forces set foot in al-Faw, our motto has been: No to the entrance of Iranian forces onto Iraqi land. We support Iraq in pushing the Iranian forces back to international borders and in looking for a peaceful political solution to disagreements between the two countries. The Gulf crisis is helping to develop Palestinian-Iraqi and intra-Arab relations under the canopy of a joint struggle to link the Gulf crisis and the Palestinian question. We hope this process will continue its course and that further steps will be taken toward developing the intifadah, strengthening Jordan's steadfastness, enhancing the steadfast Iraqi capabilities, and activating the Arab masses movement because we are in a complicated situation full of contradictions and we want to block the road to the imperialists and their allies in order to paralyze the aggressor and open the prospect for a broad Arab awakening.

[Reporter] How do you perceive Syria's position at this stage?

[Hawatimah] I think that this issue is best left to the Syrian brothers. We, however, say that we support the stand of the nine Arab states that have opposed the dispatch of foreign forces and the Cairo summit that led to Arab division and provided the pretext for foreign forces in the Gulf and the preparations for aggression against Iraq. We have to press ahead with the struggle in compliance with the Jordanian Parliament's just and sincere call for the formation of the eastern front—Palestine, Jordan, Iraq, Syria, and we hope to expand it in the future to include Lebanon, and Egypt—in order to restore effective solidarity to the front lines to defeat the Israeli occupation in the Palestinian land, southern Lebanon, the Golan Heights, and the small pockets that the Israeli forces of expansion occupy.

[Reporter] Do you believe that the difference in position between you and Syria will affect relations between Syria and the DFLP?

[Hawatimah] This is not the first time that differences have existed between the revolution, the PLO, and several Arab states, including Syria. We are continuing the struggle to resolve these differences on the basis of restoring joint action against the common enemy. Hence, we note the wise and peaceful Iraqi policy in tackling differences with Iraq's neighbors. We have also noticed the Iraqi news media's complete silence toward Syria, because Iraq wishes for rapprochement with Syria and for establishing an eastern front against the invaders and aggressors. We should always specify which of the Arab forces is friend or foe with respect to U.S. policy. We, in the DFLP, have struggled alongside 'Abd-al-Nasir's Egypt. We disagreed with al-Sadat and, after his death, we had comments on the Egyptian system and we called for a new policy on Arab issues.

[Reporter] Every now and then divisions within the DFLP surface. Is there a new approach toward restoring unity within the front?

[Hawatimah] This issue is in the hands of the front's cadres and masses. Everything can be solved within the framework of democratic dialogue and through democracy by returning to the roots in a comprehensive electoral campaign based on spreading democracy within our ranks. We, in the front, have adopted this democratic option and not the other options to which other factions have resorted to resolve differences, such as the use of force, the effects of which we still see in southern Lebanon. It is regrettable that the group that takes an isolated position within our ranks sometimes resorts to public defamation, which serves neither the dialogue nor democracy. We hope that this will not pave the way for secessionist steps. We have fought long in defense of national unity. We will always be pioneers in terms of the organization of our political unity on the domestic level. We should not always deal with matters from a domestic perspective since there have been great political issues in the Palestinian arena that have brought about points of agreements and points of differences, each having their impact on each Palestinian Revolution faction. The more these differences diminish, and national unity and the unity of each faction become consolidated, the more political steps crystallize in the right direction.

Habash on Palestine Question, Gulf Crisis

JN2409152590 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
24 Sep 90 p 9

[Report by 'Awdah 'Awdah]

[Excerpts] Dr. George Habash, secretary-general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, at a general meeting held the day before yesterday at the Royal Cultural Center, praised the Jordanian people's historic embracing of the Palestine question. He reaffirmed that the Palestine question is the central question of the Arab nation and that the Zionist danger is threatening the destiny of the Arab nation, not just Palestine.

While reviewing the stages of the Arab-Zionist and Palestinian-Zionist struggles, Dr. Habash called for learning lessons and heeding examples for our future and continuous struggle until victory is achieved.

He said that the last stages of the Zionist-Palestinian struggle are represented in the mammoth intifadah in occupied Palestine, which represents a special stage with its own characteristics, peculiarities, and lessons.

He added: The valiant intifadah has shifted the weight of the Palestinian-Zionist struggle since the diaspora of 1948 to inside [the occupied territories]. This has a great bearing on the matter in that we are not fighting our enemy from the Jordanian, Lebanese, or Syrian borders. We now fight them from inside Palestine itself. [passage omitted]

He said: As a result of all this, the intifadah has achieved many goals, which are easily read from the course of its first year in which it gained international support.

He said: The intifadah also disproved the claims of Israel's leaders who portray to the world that they are surrounded by Arabs who want to hunt them down and devour them, and that they are the victims. The intifadah has changed this false image completely.

He added: More important than all that, the intifadah has, for the first time since the Palestinian revolution, brought about the possibility of establishing the Palestinian state on a piece of Palestinian land. He also said that the intifadah has begun and will continue to inflict economic losses on the Zionist enemy.

He continued: The heroic intifadah and the [Jordanian] decision to disengage [legal and administrative] ties [with the West Bank] in 1988 both helped to realize the goal of declaring the independent Palestinian state.

Dr. Habash admitted that the political line followed by the PLO has affected the course of the intifadah and Palestinian national unity, and has not translated into action the slogans of escalation such as civil disobedience and backing the intifadah with fire. He admitted that we have not prepared ourselves for convening a national council to evaluate and review matters, which would consequently continue and escalate the intifadah.

He added: During all that time, the Gulf crisis came at a time when the United States had won the cold war against the Soviet Union and the Socialist Bloc, confirming that the United States' objective is to change the world from a bipolar system, capitalist and socialist, to a multipolar system headed by the United States. It also wants to win its economic battle against Japan and Western Europe.

Dr. Habash said that the Gulf crisis has had an effect on the central cause of the Arab nation, namely, the Palestine question, where a link has been established between the political solution of the crisis and the political solution of the Middle East question, as presented in brother Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's peace initiative of 12 August 1990.

He said that applying UN resolutions, one of which is Resolution 194 which guarantees the right to return, self-determination, and establishing the state, will constitute the beginning of the Zionist project's retreat. [passage omitted]

He added that the Jordanian arena, though small, is providing the greatest support for the Iraqi cause. Previously, it provided the greatest support to the Palestinian intifadah. He added that our mutual enemy, Israel, and the U.S. Administration, are seeking to strike against this image in the Jordanian arena; that is, to strike against Palestinian-Jordanian national unity. Proceeding from this, I call on the PLO through the Palestinian factions, the Palestinian masses in Jordan, and the Jordanian masses to be careful.

Answering a question regarding the Soviet stand on our issues, he said: We Arabs and the Palestinian people are known for our loyalty. Personally, I am grateful for the Soviet stand throughout history that has opposed the hostile American stand. The Palestinian revolution used to depend on a camp of friends headed by the Soviet Union. Recently, however, there have been changes in the Soviet stand, one of which was the Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union to our country and opening the door to them, coupled with a new understanding of the international conference as an umbrella and not as a conference with full powers, as well as the gradual return of Soviet-Israeli relations.

Responding to a question on the need to introduce new blood into the Palestinian revolution and the need for national unity, he answered: I reaffirm the importance of Palestinian national unity and the continuation and escalation of the intifadah, in addition to reinforcing it with new blood. The outside must not be made an alternative for the inside, or the other way round. I reaffirm the need for the PLO to play its role from the viewpoint of those Arab countries that have taken an honorable position on the [Gulf] crisis, by launching an initiative that is clearly taking shape and which will be presented to the nine states.

Dr. Habash added: I know that some people want the moment of explosion of the crisis to come. However, when I pause to think about the responsibility toward this nation's future, [I realize] we must push matters toward a political solution, or toward thwarting the imperialist designs of pushing the region into a war based on its military superiority, while guaranteeing that Iraq will emerge victorious. [passage omitted]

Asked about the Syrian position on the Gulf crisis, Dr. Habash described it as surprising and unexpected. He said he had met with the National Progressive Front in Syria and expressed his disappointment at their position. However, he added that he was not surprised at the stand taken by Camp David's godfather and the stands of the Gulf states and of Djibouti. He described the Syrian stand as abnormal despite the fact that Iraqi media have so far not taken an aggressive approach to the Syrian regime.

He referred to the strategic alliance between the Palestinian revolution and Syria within the steadfastness and confrontation front, which previously also supported the Lebanese Islamic and national movement.

Answering a question, Dr. George Habash said that the intifadah does not rule out a stage of armed struggle. He added that the intifadah was born in the womb of armed struggle. He called for civil disobedience and popular destruction of the Zionist enemy's institutions. [passage omitted]

'Popular Police' Formed in Tulkarm Camp

JN2409185690 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 22 Sep 90

[Text] This is a statement issued by the popular police in the Martyrs Camp [Tulkarm Camp] in response to Al-Quds Radio's special call:

O valiant masses of our people; O heroes of the intifadah and makers of victory; O those people whose persistent sacrifice and spirit of challenge has escalated the intifadah and dwarfed the enemy's military machine: Backed by all the world's free men, you are today facing great challenges in creating the authority of the people and dismantling the authority of the occupation and the so-called Civil Administration. With you and through you, we will achieve this. Against the backdrop of earlier decisions, and with a view to glorifying national decisions and reinforcing the authority of the people, the popular police has been established as one of the pillars of the popular and national committees of the intifadah. You are called upon to support and rally behind this police force to add a new victory to those of the giant intifadah. In order to leave no room for misunderstanding, we will inform you of the basic tasks of the popular police:

1. The popular police has been established to protect your security on national bases and in accordance with public national interests. Proceeding from this, we raise the slogan: "Let all our daily and social problems be solved by our popular police, and let us fully boycott the Zionist enemy police."

2. In order to safeguard the heroes of the intifadah and their security, and in order to maintain our camp and masses against enemy intelligence services, the popular police will be tasked with stopping and searching all suspicious people, whether from within the area or from outside. All should cooperate with and abide by the decisions of the popular police.

3. The police shall have the right to impose fines and other forms of punishment on all those who contravene the decisions of the popular and national committees of the intifadah, such as failure to adhere to strike days, to boycott Zionist commodities, or to comply with other instructions in successive calls.

4. We appeal to popular goodwill committees and other popular committees to cooperate with the popular police to solve all problems they face as a result of applying the decisions of the executive committees.

5. The authority of the popular police shall apply to all without exception. Our kinfolk and masses of our people should forward to this police their complaints against any individual, or even against members of the strike forces if they act against public national interests. There is absolutely no one above the laws and national decisions; all violators will be called to account, regardless of their affiliation or national role. The aim is to apply the principles of justice and equality among the members of the one people.

6. The popular police shall have the right to issue laws and regulations to organize daily and militant life, without contradicting the decisions of the popular and national committees. The aim is to build alternative bodies to the occupation and its laws and regulations. All our people are called upon to respect and abide fully by our laws and national regulations.

In our next statements, we will inform you of the laws and regulations of the popular police and provide a list of punishments for various offenses.

The statement concludes: O our heroic and sacrificing people in the camp of martyrs and martyrdom: We call upon you to complete the establishment of, and to participate widely in, the various specialized popular committees to perpetuate your authority and impose your national will, with a view to eliminating all occupation bodies. Your authority, O struggling free people, is our way to the establishment of the independent state and a splendid victory. Let scores of popular committees be established, and let us fully boycott all occupation organs. Yes, to the popular police as an executive committee; yes, to the reinforcement of national popular authority; and yes, to national unity—the maker of the intifadah and independence.

[Signed] The popular police in the Tulkarm camp.

Algeria

President Bendjedid Receives Party Leaders

LD2409223190 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 24 Sep 90

[Excerpts] President Chadli Bendjedid has been continuing his consultations with leaders of political parties.

Today he received Hussein Ayat Ahmed, the leader of the Socialist Forces Front. He also received Lakhder Ben Toubal, chairman of the Executive Bureau of the National Council of Democrats.

During these two meetings ways and means of bolstering the democratic process were reviewed. The consultations on the major problems of national life enabled the coming legislative elections to be discussed.

After his meeting with the president, the leader of the Socialist Forces Front made the following statement:

[Begin Ahmed recording] In this meeting, we touched on all domestic and foreign questions. [passage omitted]

We also talked about international issues. Naturally, we discussed the family issue; namely, the Palestinian question. That is, there must be an initiative for solving this problem by way of recognizing the Palestinian people's rights and supporting the PLO and Yasir 'Arafat.

We reaffirmed our belief that the war in the Gulf will be disaster for the Arab countries and Arab issues, especially for the Palestinian issue. Therefore, there should be an initiative at all Maghreb and international levels in order to persuade world public opinion to block the imperialist ambitions and desires of the Americans. [end recording]

Lakhdar Ben Toubal also made a statement to the national press after his meeting with the president. In his statement he thanked President Bendjedid for this initiative and he said that their talks dealt with the current situation in Algeria. We put forward our views on those solutions that look possible. We also talked about the feasibility of Arab Maghreb unity, the situation in the Middle East, and the latest developments in the Gulf area, he stated.

In this connection he said that Iraq's invasion of Kuwait is considered a grave precedent at the political level because it is seen as affecting the frontiers that were inherited from the colonialist era.

Egypt

Government Closes Iraqi Military Attache Office

NC2109175590 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1640 GMT 21 Sep 90

[Text] Cairo, 21 Sep (MENA)—The Egyptian Government has decided to close the office of the Iraqi military attache in Cairo, to consider all those working in the office undesirable persons, and to give them seven days to leave Cairo. This was stated by Dr. Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, who added that it has also been decided to consider two members of the Iraqi Embassy staff in Cairo as undesirable persons and to give them the same deadline to leave Egypt.

The Egyptian Government's decision is in response to the Iraqi authorities's decision to close the office of the Egyptian military attache in Baghdad, to consider those working in the office undesirable persons, and to expel two Egyptian diplomats from Baghdad. The Egyptian Government closed the offices of the information and cultural advisers in Baghdad at the beginning of the Gulf crisis.

Mubarak, Fahd Hold Telephone Conversation

NC2109160590 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1306 GMT 21 Sep 90

[Text] Cairo, 21 Sep (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak and Saudi King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques, conferred by telephone today. They consulted over recent developments in the Gulf in light of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

Mubarak Cables Saudi King on National Day

NC2209171390 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1434 GMT 22 Sep 90

[Text] Cairo, 22 Sep (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has sent the following congratulatory cable to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia on national day:

It gives me utmost happiness to send heartfelt congratulations to you on your fraternal country's national day. I pray to God almighty to grant you good health, happiness, and long life so that your fraternal people will achieve all their aspirations on the path of progress and prosperity under your wise leadership. On this glorious national occasion, I would like to emphasize, dear brother, the deep and firm fraternal bonds between our two countries and peoples. These bonds, God willing, will remain strong and firm and a shield in confronting the forces of evil, arrogance, and aggression that want to uproot every green branch in our good Arab land. May God preserve and safeguard you and guide your steps on the right path.

Saudi Foreign Minister Arrives for Brief Visit

NC2409175890 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1716 GMT 24 Sep 90

[Text] Cairo, 24 Sep (MENA)—This evening President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal at the presidential office in Heliopolis. Saudi Ambassador in Cairo As'ad Abu-al-Nasr attended the meeting.

Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal arrived in Cairo this evening on a brief visit to Egypt. He is scheduled to meet with Dr.

'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, before his departure tomorrow.

Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the president's office for political affairs, and As'ad Abu-al-Nasr, the Saudi ambassador in Cairo, welcomed the Saudi foreign minister upon his arrival.

Meets Mubarak, Makes Statement

NC2409195690 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1912 GMT 24 Sep 90

[Text] Cairo, 24 Sep (MENA)—Following his meeting with President Husni Mubarak this evening, Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal said he gave a message from the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, to his brother President Husni Mubarak. He explained that this message is part of the continuing consultations and coordination between the two leaders regarding the disaster that befell the Arab nation when Iraq invaded Kuwait.

Asked about the options of war and peace for solving the Gulf crisis, he said: The Iraqi leadership took the war option when it invaded an independent Arab state. However, he said he hoped that the international position, which was based on rejection of the aggression and insistence on the restoration of legitimacy, would influence the Iraqi leadership's decision to accept the implementation of the Security Council's resolutions.

Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal described the Iraqi leadership's unchanged position regarding the occupation of Kuwait as against legitimacy and against the civilized coexistence of states.

President Questions Deaths of Nationals in Iraq

NC2209143490 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1218 GMT 22 Sep 90

[Text] Cairo, 22 Sep (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received Interior Minister Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Musa this morning. During the meeting, President Mubarak requested a thorough and detailed report on the number of the Egyptian bodies that had been returned from Iraq as well as detailed statements about the circumstances of their death and a precise investigation of the causes. He requested that the report include the forensic reports sent by Iraq as well as the Egyptian forensic reports prepared after the autopsies. President Mubarak asked for this report after he had noticed a substantial increase in the number of Egyptian deaths in Iraq. Muhammad 'Abd-al-Mun'im, the president's press secretary, gave this information in a statement.

Causes Found 'Suspicious'

NC2409153390 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1446 GMT 24 sep 90

[Text] Cairo, 24 sep (MENA)—Interior Minister Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Musa has disclosed that the Ministry is currently holding contacts with the Iraqi Health Ministry and the forensic medicine department in Baghdad to determine the actual causes of death of a number of Egyptian workers in Iraq whose bodies arrived in Cairo recently.

In a statement to MENA, he said that, on orders from President Husni Mubarak for him to follow up the issue of the Egyptians' deaths in Iraq to learn the circumstances of the death of each of the Egyptians, an autopsy was performed on the bodies. The results indicate that the deaths are suspicious.

The interior minister noted that the autopsy results prompt us to investigate the real causes of the deaths with the competent authorities in Iraq. He said a final report on the matter will be prepared and submitted to President Husni Mubarak soon.

MENA Says 3348 Nationals Return 22 Sep

NC2209133090 Cairo MENA in English 1058 GMT 22 Sep 90

[Text] Cairo, Sept 22 (MENA)—A total of 3348 Egyptian nationals returned here today via three sea trips and 12 flights by Saudia, Sabena and Gulf Air, Minister of Transport, Communications and Martitime Transport Sulayman Mutawalli said today.

The number of returnees up till yesterday reached 295,000 via 171 sea trips and 564 flights.

It has now decreased to 3,000 returnees a day after it reached 20,000 at the peak of home-coming, the minister further said.

Premier on Losses, Employment of Returnees

NC2209062990 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2104 GMT 21 Sep 90

[Text] Cairo, 21 Sep (MENA)—Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi has disclosed that Egypt's losses as a result of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait amount to more than $17 billion.

In an interview by AL-JUMHURIYAH chief editor Mahfuz al-Ansari that will appear in the 22 September issue, Dr. Sidqi said that this sum is made up of $12 billion representing the property, bank deposits, and savings of Egyptians in Kuwait; $446 million in overdue payments by Iraq, not counting Iraq's military debt; $4.52 billion in lost income from tourism, the Suez Canal, and expatriate transfers; and 650 million Egyptian pounds in additional budget expenditures.

Asked whether sisterly Arab countries are helping to alleviate the negative impact that the crisis is having on Egypt, Dr. Sidqi said that Saudi Arabia has expressed willingness to assist us, and so has Kuwait. The United Arab Emirates also pledged to continue financing agricultural projects and to step up its assistance to help us cope with the crisis, the prime minister noted.

Dr. Sidqi said that 288,000 Egyptians have returned so far from Kuwait and Iraq. Some 191,000 of them returned with 15,000 automobiles, 97,000 were flown home, and 6,000 returned in other ways. [sentence as received]

The prime minister said that suitable employment will be found for the returnees; many of them are skilled craftsmen and agricultural workers, and there is a labor shortage in their fields. We also have a shortage of university professors and we have vacancies for certain teaching jobs, and the returnees can fill these positions.

Dr. Sidqi noted that the government is committed to admitting the returnees' sons to schools and universities in Egypt, and that in cases where their application documents are incomplete, they will be given six months to complete them.

French Envoy Comments on French Aid to Country

NC2209165990 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1340 GMT 22 Sep 90

[Text] Cairo, 22 Sep (MENA)—French Ambassador to Egypt Alain Dejammet has stated that French President Francois Mitterrand's recent message to President Husni Mubarak dealt with French aid to Egypt to help offset the negative effects of the Gulf crisis.

At a news conference in Cairo at noon today, the French ambassador said that the French aid includes a French-Egyptian financial and economic cooperation protocol for 1990, to be signed in October, amounting to $120 million that will be allocated for development projects. The protocol will be signed without having to wait for Egypt to sign an agreement with the International Monetary Fund [IMF].

The French ambassador added that the French Governemnt will extend urgent aid amounting to approximately $50 million to Egypt to rectify its balance of payments. He said that France will also give credit amounting to approximately $10 million from the food aid fund to Egypt so that it can absorb the agricultural laborers who have returned from Iraq and Kuwait.

This fund derives its estimated $50 million in revenues from the sale of the products France sends to Egypt, such as wheat and flour. The fund's assets are used in the implementation of joint projects, in cooperation with France, in the fields of agriculture and agricultural training.

Ambassador Dejammet noted that France has approved the immediate suspension of Egypt's payment of the interest on the debt owed to France without having to wait for Egypt to sign the agreement with the IMF within the framework of the Paris Club. The agreement amounts to approximately $320 million annually. This means that France is not canceling the debt, but that it will wait until Egypt is able to resume settlement of the debt.

He added that with the adoption of this step, total French aid to Egypt amounts to approximately $500 million.

Alain Dejammet said that France will request the Paris Club to reduce Egypt's debt burden in accordance with the several options French President Francois Mitterrand proposed during the Houston summit with regard to medium-income states.

He added that France will approach the IMF to expedite signing the agreement with Egypt while taking the current conditions into consideration.

The French ambassador noted that the Egyptian Government has expressed its satisfaction with these steps.

Meanwhile, he emphasized that France will continue to apply the economic sanctions against Iraq in accordance with the UN Security Council's resolutions, even after the eruption of the war of the embassies, out of France's belief that the blockade will produce good results.

Libyan Military Delegation Arrives in Cairo

NC2109160690 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1344 GMT 21 Sep 90

[Text] Cairo, 21 Sep (MENA)—A Libyan military delegation arrived in Cairo this afternoon for a visit of several days. The delegation will hold talks with Egyptian military officials on bilateral military cooperation.

Received by Abu-Talib

NC2209142090 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 22 Sep 90

[Text] This morning Lieutenent General Yusuf Sabri Abu-Talib, commander in chief of the Armed Forces and minister of defense and war production, received the Libyan military delegation, led by Staff Colonel Sha'ban 'Abd-al-Wanis, head of the of Libyan Popular Army's training department.

The two officials discussed military cooperation and the exchange of expertise between the two countries.

Kuwaiti Ambassador Discusses Iraqi Invasion

NC2409141290 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1323 GMT 24 Sep 90

[Text] Cairo, 24 Sep (MENA)—Kuwait's Ambassador in Egypt 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Kandari has said that Saddam Husayn spent much of his country's debts, approximately $100 billion, on exporting violence and conspiring against Arab countries.

In a seminar last night in support of the Kuwaiti cause, he asked: What has become of the Palestinian cause now that Iraq has invaded Kuwait? Where is the popular intifadah and the aid it received from about 350,000 Palestinians who were living in Kuwait with an average income greater than that of the ordinary Kuwaiti citizen?

He emphasized that even those Arab countries that support Saddam and have stood by his side fully recognize the legitimate Kuwaiti authority.

Zimbabwean Finance Minister Concludes Visit

NC2109122490 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 21 Sep 90

[Text] The Zimbabwean minister of state for finances and economic planning left Cairo early this morning following a four-day visit to Egypt. While here he headed his country's delegation to the joint Egyptian-Zimbabwean committee meetings which ended yesterday.

Official Welcomes Restoration of Soviet-Saudi Ties

NC2209141690 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 22 Sep 90

[Text] Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary at the Foreign Ministry and director of the president's office for political affairs, has stated that Egypt welcomes the restoration of diplomatic relations between Saudi Arabia and the Soviet Union. He said this development will reflect positively on Arab-Soviet relations, particularly at a time when the Soviet Union can play a tangible role in settling problems in the Middle East.

Industrial Cooperation With GGC States Discussed

PM2109142090 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 18 Sep 90 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Egyptian-Gulf Agreement To Revive Arab Industrialization Organization"]

[Text] Cairo—AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that Egyptian-Gulf consultations are being held on reviving the Arab Industrialization Organization with the participation of Egypt and the six Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states and securing major sources of finance to support the organization's military projects for manufacturing some European military equipment in its factories for the founder states.

An informed source has said that the three Gulf states which participated in founding the organization—namely the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates—have informed Egypt of their willingness to allocate sums of money for the organization's investments in the future in order to meet the Gulf states' future needs for arms, military equipment, and ammunition.

In an exclusive statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT the source said that President Husni Mubarak will hold an important meeting in the next few weeks with the Arab Industrialization Organization Supreme Board to be attended by some Egyptian ministers—at the forefront of them, General Yusuf Sabri Abu-Talib, defense and war production minister; and Lieutenant General Ibrahim al-'Urabi, the organization's chairman—to discuss the organization's future plans, the financial investments required, and the size of Gulf contributions.

The source pointed out that one of the principal foundations agreed upon by Egypt and the Gulf states regarding the establishment of a new Arab defense system to ensure pan-Arab security in the Gulf region, respond to any threats, and deter any aggressive intentions against these states in the future, is the revival of the Arab Industrialization Organization and the beginning of bolstering its activities to establish Arab military industries capable of meeting the Arab states' military needs.

The source added that the legitimate Kuwaiti Government informed Egypt of its commitment to the contracts signed with the organization to provide Kuwait with military equipment produced by the organization, including the Fahd armored vehicles and the Amun defense system produced by the organization in cooperation with some European states.

Kuwait has obtained consignments of the organization's production over the past two years.

Libyan Military Industry Official Arrives

NC2109131090 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1050 GMT 21 Sep 90

[Text] Cairo, 21 Sep (MENA)—Colonel 'Abd-al-Hafiz al-Dali, deputy chairman of the Libyan military industrialization authority, arrived in Cairo this morning to visit for several days. During his visit, the Libyan official will hold talks with officials in the Ministry of War Production to bolster bilateral cooperation in the military area. He was received at the airport by a number of Libyan Embassy staff members and officials of the War Production Ministry.

Syrian Labor Union Delegation Arrives for Visit

NC2309130490 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0945 GMT 23 Sep 90

[Text] Cairo, 23 Sep (MENA)—'Izz-al-Din Nasir, chairman of the Syrian General Federation of Labor Unions, arrived in Cairo this morning leading a delegation on a five-day visit to Egypt.

Ahmad al-'Amawi, chairman of the Egyptian Federation of Trade Unions, received the Syrian delegation at the airport and said the ties between the two federations, as well as the coordination of efforts regarding workers returning from Kuwait and Iraq as a result of recent regional events, will be discussed during the visit. The two sides will also discuss the compensation of the Egyptian workers, the rights they lost in both Iraq and Kuwait, and the need to raise this issue before the international organizations. The two sides will also discuss coordination at the international conference of labor unions that will be held in Cairo on 17 and 18 October in support of Kuwait's workers and people.

Nasir said that during his visit he will discuss labor issues of common interest to the two countries. He described the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait as a major catastrophe, unprecedented in Arab history. He said Syria is contacting the Arab governments and Arab and international labor organizations to help preserve the rights of the workers who were forced by the invasion to return to their countries, and to discuss the losses they incurred as a result.

He noted that there is coordination between Egyptian, Syrian, and Kuwaiti workers in preparation for the international conference in Cairo next month to support the Kuwaiti workers and people.

Journalists Urge Sudanese Press Freedom

NC2209170890 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1456 GMT 22 Sep 90

[Text] Cairo, 22 Sep (MENA)—The Egyptian Journalists Association has called for a speedy release of detained Sudanese journalists, republication of newspapers, and the resumption of the legitimate journalist association council for professional activity. This was contained in a cable sent by Egyptian jounalists doyen Makram Muhammad Ahmad today to Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, chairman of the Sudanese National Salvation Revolution Command Council.

The Egyptian Journalists Association Council expressed its deep concern about a serious report it received on the situation of the Sudanese press and journalists, and their association, and the continued detention of 25 journalists. It stressed that this situation continues despite promises from Lt. Col. al-Bashir to release the journalists and to allow republication of newspapers and resumption of the activities of the Sudanese journalists association.

SLP Members Protest Party's Gulf Stance

PM2409103090 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 20 Sep 90 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Some Egyptian Labor Party Leaders Freeze Their Membership Because of Party's Position On Gulf Crisis"]

[Text] Cairo—AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned from informed sources in the Egyptian opposition Socialist Labor Party [SLP] that more than seven members of the party's Higher Committee and Executive Committee have declared their solidarity with party Deputy Leader Muhammad Hasan Durrah. And that they have submitted urgent letters to Engineer Ibrahim Shukri, the party leader, freezing their membership of the party indefinitely because of Shukri and his supporters' position supporting Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and his occupation of Kuwait. That stand was an initial step, and they called for that position to be abandoned and reconsidered, otherwise they would submit mass resignations from the party in the near future if the party persisted in maintaining its position.

The sources added that that patriotic stand involved many leaders and members of party secretariats in the governorates, who sent cables of support to Egyptian President Husni Mubarak for Egypt's sound handling of the situation.

At the level of the tripartite alliance among the SLP, the Liberal Party, and the Muslim Brotherhood, a large number of the Liberal Party members have requested that the party withdraw from its alliance with the SLP, emphasizing that the party's recent position on the Gulf crisis is disgraceful and that this could lead to the Liberal Party's candidates losing their seats in the next parliamentary elections.

Another group of Liberal Party members have demanded that an urgent measure be taken to freeze the alliance and stop all coordination activities with the SLP and with any Muslim Brotherhood leadership supporting the party's position on the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait.

Authoritative sources from the Wafd Party have told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that an important meeting at the Wafd Party Higher Committee and Executive Committee level will be held within the next few days under Party leader Fu'ad Siraj al-Din to discuss developments in the situation and the Gulf crisis, in addition to preparations for the next parliamentary elections.

The sources revealed that the party leadership intends to make a decision to stop and freeze the coordination and cooperation process with the SLP in view of its recent position on the Gulf crisis.

The sources pointed out that the draft decision being discussed is totally accepted by the party's leaders and members.

The sources indicated that the party will not be able to continue the coordination process, jeopardizing its firm stances on that blatant aggression.

The sources said that the party will also declare its position toward the Arab states supporting the Iraqi invasion of fraternal Kuwait, and that it will demand that dealings and cooperation with popular organizations in these countries be ceased.

The sources said that a position will be discussed regarding relations with any other political parties in Egypt or other Arab states supporting Iraq and its aggressive position.

The authoritative Wafd Party sources reemphasized their full support for Egypt's official and popular position on that aggression as well as their support for the UN and Security Council resolutions in that regard.

SLP Leader Reaffirms Party Stand on Invasion

NC2209144290 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 22 Sep 90

[Text] Dr. Muhammad Hilmi Murad, secretary-general of the Socialist Labor Party [SLP], has issued a statement in which he reiterated the party's principled stand which condemns the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and stresses the need to work out a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis within the Arab household.

The statement refers to the efforts being made by the SLP leadership during its tour of Saudi Arabia and Iraq to find a solution which would avert potential dangers threatening the region. The statement points out that the previous statement, in which five SLP members expressed their personal stand on the crisis, does not represent the views of the SLP parliamentary panel.

Officials Announce Oil Price Increases

$3 on 24 Sep

NC2409141490 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1313 GMT 24 Sep 90

[Excerpt] Cairo, 24 Sep (MENA)—It has been decided to increase Egyptian oil prices by three dollars per barrel effective today. The maximum price of Egyptian oil will now be $37.30 per barrel.

Hammad Ayyub, deputy chairman of the Petroleum Authority for Foreign Trade, announced this increase after a meeting at the Petroleum Authority headquarters today. The conferees discussed the situation in the international oil market, the increase in world oil prices, and the situation of Egyptian crude. [passage omitted]

$2 on 25 Sep

NC2509111090 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1040 GMT 25 Sep 90

[Text] Cairo, 25 Sep (MENA)—[Petroleum and Mineral Resources Minister] 'Abd-al-Hadi Qandil issued a decision today amending the selling price of Egyptian oil in view of yesterday's sudden increase in world oil prices. In light of this decision, the price of oil will increase by $2 as of today, Tuesday, 25 September.

Hammad Ayyub, deputy chairman of the petroleum authority, said that prices will be as follows:

Khalij al-Zayt and Ra's al-Bihar crude: $39.30 a barrel;

Suez Gulf crude: $39 a barrel;

Bala'im crude: $38.15 a barrel;

Badran crude: $37 a barrel;

Gharib crude: $36.70 a barrel.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi, 'Arafat Discuss Gulf, Palestine

JN2409164990 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 24 Sep 90

[Text] A round of talks was held in Tripoli last night between Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, who is currently visiting Libya.

The Libyan-Palestinian talks centered on the latest developments in the Arab arena, especially those pertaining to the Gulf crisis and the Palestine question in light of the growing Zionist terrorism against Palestinian citizens in the occupied Gaza Strip.

Decision on Organization of Basic Congresses

LD2409142290 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 24 Sep 90

[Decision No. 75 issued by the General People's Congress [GPC] Secretariat on 24 September—read by announcer]

[Text] The GPC Secretariat has reviewed the decisions of the Basic People's Congresses [BPC's], and Law No. 9 of 1984 regarding the organization of the people's congresses, amendments to this law, the general motion issued by the BP'Cs, and GPC Decision No. 1 of 1989 concerning the reelection of the GPC secretariat, and has declared:

1. The Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah (SPLAJ) is divided into BPC's in accordance with the enclosed schedule.

2. Every BPC is divided into a number of assemblies for males and females in accordance with the population density and the geographical area of every congress.

3. (a) Every assembly elects its own secretariat of no less than three members, and where an assembly has more than 600 persons, a member of the secretariat will be elected out of every 200 citizens carrying congress membership cards.

(b) the total number of every assembly must not exceed 1,000 members.

(c) the members of the secretariats of the assemblies in every BPC shall form the secretariat of the BPC, and will choose from among themselves a secretary and an assistant secretary, one male and the other female.

(d) the members of the secretariats of the assemblies are members of the local people's congress.

(e) The secretaries of the assemblies are members of the people's congresses of the local municipality.

4. The secretariat of the people's congress of the municipality proposes the division of the BPC's into assemblies, and a decision will be made to this effect by the GPC secretariat.

5. This decision takes effect from the day of its release, and it shall be published in the OFFICIAL GAZETTE and in the various information media.

Sudan

Officers, Troops of Coup Attempt Said Executed

*PM2409151090 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic
22 Sep 90 p 1*

[Report by Sa'idah Ramadan: "Military Coup Attempt in Sudan Fails"]

[Text] AL-WAFD has learned that the ruling military council in Sudan recently foiled a coup attempt against the regime by a number of junior officers and troops hailing from the al-Nubah mountains. Twelve officers and troops were executed and 78 arrested. Six officers managed to escape.

Informed Sudanese sources have confirmed that the Sudanese regime has liquidated a number of intellectuals from al-Nubah and the south and arrested a number of lawyers and other civilians.

The sources revealed that these officers and troops planned a coup attempt to topple the government of military council chairman Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir. This is considered the third attempt to overthrow the military government since al-Bashir assumed power on 30 June 1989.

The military council had accused the al-Ummah Party of planning a coup attempt. The son of former Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi and a number of party leaders were detained on that occasion. The second attempt was carried out by a group of patriotic officers who played an essential part in sparking the 6 April 1985 uprising that brought down former President Ja'far Numayri's government. The military council executed 28 officers on charges of complicity in that attempt.

AL-WAFD has also learned that there is strong resentment within Sudanese Army ranks because of the Sudanese Government's support for Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and the dispatch of forces to Iraq, despite the huge material and human costs of the war in the south. A group of people from the al-Nubah mountains and the south, working in the Armed Forces and in various civilian establishments, have addressed an ultimatum to al-Bashir's government urging it to stop its inhuman practices against them, as reflected in the extermination and displacement of negro elements in Sudan.

Opposition Reportedly To Meet in Ethiopia 25 Sep

*JN2409123990 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1216 GMT 24 Sep 90*

[Mustafa Bakri dispatch from Cairo]

[Text] Sudanese opposition sources in Cairo have told our radio that a high-level meeting by leaders of the Sudanese opposition will be held tomorrow in Addis Ababa and will be attended by representatives of various opposition forces and the Sudanese Army. Among the figures that will take part in the conference are Mubarak al-Mahdi, the official spokesman for the Ummah Party; General Fathi Ahmad 'Ali, the former Sudanese Army commander; and John Garang, leader of the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement.

The sources stressed that an important military statement will be issued by the conference which will call for declaring armed military war against the military government led by Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir. On the basis of this declaration, a popular army will be set up from all opposition factions which will join Garang's movement to fight a military war to topple the current Sudanese Government. The sources also pointed out that some current Sudanese Army commanders will declare that they will join the opposition movement during the conference.

'Arafat Arrives To Discuss Gulf Crisis

*EA2109140090 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic
0430 GMT 20 Sep 90*

[Text] Yasir 'Arafat, president of the Palestinian state, arrived in Khartoum last night within the framework of continued consultations with Arab leaders aimed at achieving a peaceful Arab solution to the Gulf crisis. He was received at Khartoum Airport by Revolution Command Council Chairman Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir; Mr. Abu 'Ali, the Palestinian state's charge d'affaires in Khartoum; and members of the Palestinian embassy. The two presidents will hold talks this morning at the Republican Palace.

Meets With Al-Bashir

*EA2109140490 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic
1300 GMT 20 Sep 90*

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council, this morning held a session of discussions at the Republican Palace with Mr. Yasir 'Arafat, the Palestinian president. Lt. Gen. 'Umar said they discussed the possibility of finding an Arab solution to the Gulf crisis, pointing out that there was a concurrence of viewpoints from most Arab states regarding finding a peaceful solution. His excellency appealed for respect for international law and for actions in accordance with the principle of peaceful coexistence. His excellency also thanked the Palestinian President for the efforts he is undertaking to resolve the crisis of the Gulf and of the Arab and Islamic nation.

Mr. Yasir 'Arafat said that the foreign buildup in the Arab region was one of the biggest threats to the region's security. He emphasized the importance of finding an Arab solution to the Gulf crisis without any foreign intervention. He said that America might have interests in the Arab region, but for Arabs and Muslims these were the most important sacred places. He explained that [words indistinct] pointed out that an Arab solution was the way to resolve this crisis. He added that this solution was stressed because what was involved was the future of civilization, of existence, of Arab security and the preservation of the Muslims' resources from greedy people.

Mr. 'Arafat said his current tour was aimed at laying down the final outline for an initiative on the Gulf crisis.

Ends Visit, Departs

EA2109141090 Khartoum SUNA in English 1030 GMT 21 Sep 90

[Text] Khartoum, 21st September (SUNA)—Chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] 'Umar al-Bashir and the visiting Palestinian president, Yasir 'Arafat, have yesterday held talks here concentrated on the developments of the Gulf crisis and importance of reaching an Arab solution away from the foreign intervention.

In press statements 'Arafat said the discussions, which lasted one and half hours, have also touched on the danger of the foreign existence in the Arab Gulf area. The Western campaign was not aiming at protecting the regimes of the area but only aggression against the Iraqi people, he said.

He emphasized that the Arab solution should be under the United Nations umbrella and should be emanated from all the UN decisions regarding the Middle East. 'Arafat, who has arrived here late Wednesday [19 September] night, has left here yesterday and was seen off at the airport by Gen al-Bashir, a number of RCC members, ministers and some senior officials.

Attack on Iraqi Installation in Sudan Reported

PM2009145290 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 16 Sep 90 pp 1, 2

[Unattributed report: "Unidentified Planes Destroy Iraqi Military Unit in Sudan"]

[Excerpt] It has been reported that some unidentified military aircraft launched a fierce surprise raid on an Iraqi miliitary unit in Sudan last week, destroying the Iraqi unit which consisted of a mobile rocket launcher mounted on a halftrack, as well as a number of trucks carrying eight modified Scud-B missiles ready for launching. The Iraqi unit also included vehicles for technical crews in charge of maintenance, preparation, guidance, and launching of missiles.

Earlier reports confirmed that, two weeks ago, an unidentified aircraft bombed a training camp near Port Sudan used for training fundamentalists that had fled a certain Arab country. Sources have confirmed that the fundamentalists had bought a farm near Khartoum and turned it into a new training camp.

AL-WAFD had published an exclusive report on Iraqi military presence in Sudan on 22 August. [passage omitted]

Opposition to Regime's Gulf Stance Mounts

PM2409104290 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 20 Sep 90 p 7

[Report by Hani Naqshabandi: "Sudanese Sources Tell AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: "Increasing Opposition to Al-Bashir Regime Because of Its Position on Gulf Crisis"]

[Text] Jeddah—AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that the Labor Unions Federation in Sudan has sent an additional memorandum to the the National Salvation Revolution Command Council, rejecting the Sudanese Government's position on the current Gulf crisis resulting from the Iraqi invasion of the State of Kuwait. It said that the principal reason for the economic crisis and the soaring prices which the country is suffering at the moment, and which the Sudanese Government has attributed to the Gulf crisis, is in fact the government's negative position on that crisis.

Sudanese labor sources have told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the memorandum demanded that the minimum wage level be increased to 2,000 Sudanese pounds. It was 300 pounds until the June 1989 coup.

Observers in Khartoum believe that that increase in the minimum wage level reflects how badly the inflation has worsened since the Al-Bashir regime assumed power in the country just one year ago.

The government has recently announced huge increases in the price of food commodities and petrol, attributing these increases to recent Gulf events. But the Labor Unions Federation rejected that logic, saying that the bad effects are the result of the government's position on the crisis.

Observers have told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT over the telephone from Khartoum that although the workers' memorandum seems to make economic demands, it is political in essence by virtue of the fact that it coincides with the memorandum of the judges, who protested against the dismissal of 70 judges recently and demanded independence for judges.

Observers linked the memorandums with the demonstrations staged by secondary school students in various areas of Khartoum on Saturday and Sunday [15 and 16 September] in solidarity with students from the university, which the Sudanese Government closed following student unrest as a result of the deteriorating economic situation and the subsequent closure of student accommodations.

Observers did not rule out the possibility of the government's announcing the closure of schools and delaying the start of the academic year, if only temporarily.

Observers attributed what is happening in Sudan to the effective opposition and political moves at all levels, which are expected to assume a new thrust in the coming days, especially in view of the worsening dispute among the Revolution Command Council members because of Lieutenant al-Bashir's position on the Gulf crisis.

Informed sources have told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the dispute is no longer confined to the three southern members; it has also erupted between Al-Bashir and his deputy Al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih.

The sources pointed out that Council members Faysal Abu-Salih and 'Uthman have joined the Council's three southern members who are opposed to the Sudanese Government's position on the current crisis.

SPLA's Garang Offers To Send 500 Men to Gulf

EA2409203590 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 24 Sep 90

[Statement by John Garang, leader of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army, SPLA; read by announcer]

[Text] I address you today while you pursue your staunch and heroic struggle against the isolated junta of the National Islamic Front [NIF], the junta that turned all aspects of your life into misery; [word indistinct] the junta that is exercising the ugliest forms of oppression, detention, torture, murder, displacement, and uprooting against all honorable citizens of our people.

The tragic events resulting from the Iraqi invasion of the sister state of Kuwait and the great threat to the peace and security of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and all other Gulf states, and the position adopted by the government of the military junta ruling our country, clearly demonstrated the real colors of this junta.

Indeed, the position adopted by this regime is far from the reality in Sudan. It does not reflect the position of the Sudanese people, their ambitions and interests. It is a total negation of all this. It reflects nothing but the position of the NIF clique which has spared no effort [break in transmission; (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in Arabic at 1330 GMT on 24 September, in an otherwise identical transmission of the Garang statement, carries the following passage: "...to transform Sudan into a launching pad and bridge for an ideological, fundamentalist, and fascist ideology which threatens the security of our country as well as the stability of the region and other neighboring countries.

"It is strange that the whole world, from east to west, is united against the Iraqi aggression; yet the government of Al-Bashir stands on the side of tyranny and aggression. Indeed, it is a participant, providing all political and diplomatic support and military facilities to the Iraqi regime, paying no heed to the resolutions and conventions of international and regional organizations. It openly challenges local and world public opinion, and all this is done, as usual, under the umbrella of misleading slogans, thus escaping from condemning the invasion and demanding of Iraq an unconditional withdrawal. It attempts to concentrate on some of the consequences of the invasion so as to avoid dealing with the question of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. That is the primary and the critical point."]

Not content with this, the al-Bashir Government indulges in a propaganda campaign of disinformation to deny the others their legitimate right to self-defense and confront the barbaric invasion.

Fellow countrymen, the position of the NIF government and the insults and slander to our people and their history are a cause of great pain. (?They hack the saw.) What is positive, however, is that the National Democratic Alliance [NDA], with all its parties and forces, among which is the SPLM [Sudanese People's Liberation Movement]-SPLA, have condemned the invasion and called for the total and unconditional withdrawal of Iraq from Kuwait, and the restoration of the legitimate government of the state of Kuwait. So did the Sudanese groups' organizations and associations abroad where they are working, especially in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and in the Gulf states.

In accordance with our position and the efforts of the NDA, to which we contributed, we conveyed our position, which strongly denounces the invasion, to the representatives of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. I have been in continuous contact with the forces of the NDA and Mawlana Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani, leader of the Democratic Unionist Party and spiritual leader of the Khatimiyah, in order to clarify the position of our people, who totally reject the invasion and strongly condemn the opportunist and cowardly position of the junta.

Fellow countrymen, we have always stood firm for justice and truth for which we have been struggling hard, and in conformity with our position, we reject all sorts of aggression from any quarter; and conscious of our principles and struggle for justice and the unity of our country, and in appreciation of the historical ties that link us to our brothers in Kuwait, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and the other Gulf states, I hereby declare in the name of the SPLM-SPLA and all our honest and nationalist people who reject and condemn the aggression, as well as the policies of the ruling junta, that the SPLA is ready to send a military force of 500 men of various ranks to participate with the other forces in the defense of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states and to restore the sovereignty of the state of Kuwait.

This position of the SPLA comes at a time when the Sudanese Armed Forces are facing a ruthless campaign of purging and oppression that has robbed them of their role in assisting their brothers, which has always been the role of Sudan. It also comes at a time when the NIF is working hard to transform the Sudanese Army into an ideological army composed of the militia of the NIF in order to serve the aims and designs of the (?reactionary) Islamic group, which aims at destabilizing Sudan and the entire region. Our position, as declared, is the SPLA in the forefront of the NDA defending the interests of our people and at the same time conscious and committed to the historical ties with our sister countries.

Fellow countrymen, allow me in conclusion to reiterate the firm position of the SPLM-SPLA. Firstly: We strongly condemn the Iraqi invasion and annexation of Kuwait and plundering of its wealth and property. Secondly: We call for immediate, total, and unconditional withdrawal of the Iraqi Army from all Kuwaiti territory and the full implementation of the resolutions of the League of Arab States and the UN Security Council. Thirdly: The restoration of the legitimate Government of Kuwait, for the people of Kuwait alone have the supreme right to determine the type of government they want.

Our position is a true and genuine reflection of the position of our people and all peace-loving and democratic forces which respect the laws, conventions, and international norms. Allow me once more to salute you in your heroic struggle, namely, the struggle of the Sudanese people for democracy and peace. Long Live SPLM-SPLA!

Dr. John Garang de Mabior, chairman of the SPLM and commander in chief of the SPLA.

292 Nationals Arrive at Port Sudan 20 Sep

EA2209220790 Khartoum SUNA in French 0922 GMT 21 Sep 90

[Text] Khartoum, 21 September (SUNA)—The [words indistinct] arrived on Thursday [20 September] at Port Sudan with 292 Sudanese nationals on board, it was learned on Friday [21 September]. It is worth noting that they were met by the commissioner of Red Sea Province, Mr. Muhammad 'Umar Hasan, and the commander of the Red Sea military area, Brigadier [name indistinct].

Measures Announced To Cut Spending on Salaries

EA2309160990 Khartoum SUNA in English 0919 GMT 23 Sep 90

[Text] Khartoum, 23rd September (SUNA)—Minister of finance and economic planning, Dr. 'Abd al-Rahim Hamdi has yesterday announced a package of measures intended to reduce government's spending on wages and salaries of government's employees. The measures, which came in the context of the government's policy to cut down public expenditure included among other things a 50 percent cut in sums allocated for over-time pay in the central and regional budgets and those for the public companies and corporations during fiscal 1990-1991. The decree calls for the encouragement of leave without pay system for public employees and early retirement. The decree also banned creation of new posts out of the approved budgets proposals.

Chief of Oil Exploitation Project Named

EA2309155990 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 23 Sep 90

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council and of the Council of Ministers, has issued a decree appointing Colonel Hasan Muhammad Dahawi general supervisor of the Petroleum Extraction and Exploitation Project. The decree stipulates that the general supervisor shall coordinate policies, follow upon steps and programs, lead negotiations, and conclude agreements concerning the extraction and exploitation of petroleum.

This decree comes as a confirmation of the determination of the National Salvation Revolution to unleash production potentials, exploit the country's resources, and give an impetus to the serious steps that have been taken to extract and exploit Sudanese petroleum.

Law Tightened Against Black Market Smugglers

EA2309160490 Khartoum SUNA in English 1014 GMT 22 Sep 90

[Text] Khartoum, 22nd September (SUNA)—The government has decided to strengthen the control over the basic commodities by tightening the punishments issued against the law breachers.

Justice minister the attorney general Major rtd "Jury" Ahmad Mahmud said the cabinet has issued a directive for a massive amendments [as received] on the commodities law in order to make them cope with the developments which have taken place in the black market smuggling and illegal storing of commodities.

The directive was issued after the discovery of [a] series of sorghum smuggling attempts as well as oil and gum arabic, he concluded.

Tunisia

Tunis Resumes Diplomatic Relations With Iran

LD2409122590 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 24 Sep 90

[Text] Out of the desire to develop the traditional ties of friendship and cooperation between Tunisia and Iran, and in affirmation of their adherence to the principles of Islamic solidarity and the provisions of the UN Charter, the Government of the Tunisian Republic and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran have agreed to resume diplomatic relations beginning Monday, 24 September.

The announcement came today in a communique released by the Foreign Ministry.

Karoui Briefs President on Baghdad Mission

LD2409165190 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 24 Sep 90

[Text] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali this morning received a report from Prime Minister Hamed Karoui on the mission he entrusted him to perform in Baghdad where he gave President Saddam Husayn a written message from the president within the framework of the efforts aimed at finding a peaceful resolution of the Gulf crisis.

The prime minister acquainted the president with the details of his meeting, together with members of his delegation, with the Iraqi president.

The audience was attended by Foreign Minister Habib Boulares with whom the president entrusted the task of delivering Tunisia's speech at the 45th session of the UN General Assembly in New York.

Bahrain

Amir, Jabir Discuss Coordination in Phone Call

JN2509071190 Manama WAKH in English 1525 GMT 24 Sep 90

[Text] Manama, Sept 24 (GNA)—H.H. [His Highness] the Amir of Bahrain Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al-Khalifah received this morning a telephone call from H.H. the Amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah.

The two leaders reviewed the latest developments of the Gulf crisis, coordination among GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] leaders before the start of the UN General Assembly's debate of the issue, where H.H. the amir of Kuwait will address the session.

H.H. the amir of Bahrain stressed Bahrain's firm stand with other GCC states and international consensus for a full Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait and restoration of the Kuwaiti legitimate government represented by the amir of Kuwait, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah.

Foreign Minister Leaves for UNGA Session

JN2409135890 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1300 GMT 23 Sep 90

[Excerpt] Manama, 23 Sep (WAKH)—Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Ibn-Mubarak Al-Khalifah left Manama today for New York to lead Bahrain's delegation to the meetings of the 45th session of the UN General Assembly [UNGA]. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Defense Ministry Calls for Nationals To Enlist

LD2409213790 Riyadh Television Service in Arabic 2005 GMT 24 Sep 90

[Defense Ministry statement from the State of Kuwait Television Message; announcer-read—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. [passage omitted] Bountiful sons of Kuwait! Loyal sons of the homeland! Our beloved homeland has been exposed to a vicious, treacherous attack by the aggressor Iraqi regime, which has sent its armed forces that are armed with all types of weapon, to commit aggression against your beloved, peaceful country, thus violating its sovereignty, the sanctity of its people, and occupying its territories. Today, duty calls upon you, and Kuwait calls upon you to defend it and rid its pure soil from the aggressors. So, take the initiative, you brave sons of Kuwait, and volunteer by putting your names to the registers of honor, the registers of volunteers that have been prepared, as from Saturday, 10 Rabi' al-Awal 1411 AH, corresponding to 29 September 1990 AD, subject to the following conditions:

1. The volunteer should hold Kuwaiti nationality:

2. The volunteer's age at the time of volunteering should not be less than 21 years or more than 35 years;

3. Enlistment should take place at the places set up for the registering of volunteers in the following locations:

a. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia: Riyadh—the Military Office at the Embassy of the State of Kuwait; al-Damman—the Volunteers' Training Center, near King Fahd City; Hafr al-Batin—the Registration Center, near King Khalid Military City.

b. The embassies of the State of Kuwait in each of the following states: The United Arab Emirates; Bahrain; the Sultanate of Oman; Qatar; the Arab Republic of Egypt; and the Syrian Arab Republic.

Sons of Kuwait! Kuwait is a trust in the bosom of all of us; so we must take care of it, defend it and sacrifice the dear and the cheap so that our beloved Kuwait will, as we promised it, become an oasis of security and prosperity for all the good and beloved sons of Islam and Arabdom, under the shadow of our leader and guide of our march, the supreme commander of the Army and Armed Forces [as heard], his highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, and his loyal heir apparent, may God protect them both. [passage omitted]

Amir Receives Qatari Defense Minister

LD2209151890 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1430 GMT 22 Sep 90

[Excerpts] The amir of the State of Kuwait, His Highness Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, today received the heir apparent and defense minister of the State of Qatar, Shaykh Hamad Bin Khalifah Al Thani, and the delegation accompanying him. The latter delivered a message to His Highness from his brother the amir of Qatar, His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin Hamad Al Thani. The meeting was attended by the [Kuwaiti] heir apparent and prime minister, His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah; the deputy prime minister and foreign minister, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir; the defense minister, Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad al-Jabir; the amir's adviser, 'Abd al-Rahman Salim al-'Atiqi; the justice minister, Dhari 'Abdallah al-'Uthman; and the minister of commerce and industry, Nasir 'Abdallah al-Ridan. [passage omitted]

Qatar

Amir Discusses Crisis With European Delegation

JN2509060190 Manama WAKH in English 1610 GMT 24 Sep 90

[Text] Doha, Sept 24 (GNA)—The Amir of Qatar Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani received here today an European parliamentary delegation led by Andrea Bonetti currently visiting Qatar.

The situation in the region and developments of the Gulf crisis resulting from Iraqi invasion of Kuwait with its regional and international repercussions, particularly on Europe and the Middle East were reviewed during the meeting.

The two sides underlined necessity of implementing resolutions on the crisis by the Security Council and the Arab summit and necessity of complying with U.N. Charter and international legitimacy, QATARI NEWS AGENCY reported.

The two sides also emphasized on necessity of unconditional Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait and on nonrecognition of Iraq annexation of Kuwait or any measures resulting from Iraqi invasion of Kuwaiti territory together with insisting on restoration of Kuwait legitimate government.

Relations between Qatar and the European Community in various fields and means of promoting them within the context of expanded cooperation between the Gulf Cooperation Council and EC were also reviewed during the meeting.

Foreign Minister Leaves for UN Assembly Session

JN2209154190 Manama WAKH in English 1520 GMT 22 Sep 90

[Text] Doha, Sept 22 (GNA) Qatari Foreign Minister Mubarak Bin-'Ali al-Khatir left Doha for New York today leading Qatar's delegation to the 45th U.N. General Assembly session.

In a pre-departure statement to QATAR NEWS AGENCY the minister affirmed that the Gulf crisis would figure high on the General Assembly agenda after the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait has triggered worldwide reactions. He referred in this respect to the U.N. Security Council resolutions issued in this regard and the recent Helsinki Bush-Gorbachev summit.

The Qatari minister spoke in praise of the role the United Nations has played to tackle the Gulf crisis and the strenuous efforts the U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar has exerted for the purpose.

He warned that peace would remain unattainable unless the U.N. resolutions [words indistinct] rejection of all the consequences of the invasion and bringing the situation back to Kuwait as normal as it was before August 2, would be implemented.

The surprise outburst of the Gulf crisis has come at the expense of the prime Arab cause, namely the Israeli occupation of the Arab lands in Palestine, the Golan (Heights) and Lebanon, al-Khatir told QNA and indicated that such a cause has come at the back of the international priorities the world attention has focussed on the Gulf crisis.

The General Assembly agenda also includes a set of issues awaiting solutions including the problems of Afghanistan, Cyprus and South Africa in addition to problems related to environment, narcotics and debts of the Third World, the Qatari foreign minister said.

Heir Apparent Leaves for Saudi Arabia Meetings

JN2209172290 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1140 GMT 22 Sep 90

[Text] Doha, 22 Sep (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, Qatar's heir apparent and defense minister, today left for al-Ta'if, Saudi Arabia, on a short visit during which he will meet with His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, the amir of Kuwait. His higness will later leave for Jeddah to meet with the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia.

The QATARI NEWS AGENCY has reported that his highness will discuss with the Saudi and Kuwaiti monarchs the developments resulting from the continued Iraqi troops' occupation of the State of Kuwait.

His highness the Qatari heir apparent is accompanied by Shaykh Ahmad Bin-Sayf Al Thani, Justice Minister; Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, under secretary of the Ministry of Finance and Oil; and Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Khalid Al Thani, director of the heir apparent and defense minister's [office].

Returns Home

JN2409140190 Manama WAKH in Arabic 2010 GMT 22 Sep 90

[Excerpt] Doha, 22 Sep (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, Qatari heir apparent and defense minister, returned to Doha tonight from Jeddah after a brief visit to Saudi Arabia. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

Sources Cited on Possible Military Coup in Iraq

PM2509110190 Jeddah AL-MADINAH in Arabic 21 Sep 90 p 1

[Khalid 'Ali al-Matrafi report: "Possible Military Coup in Iraq Soon"]

[Text] Iraqi dictator Saddam Husayn has since the beginning of last week started to use blackmail against the Arab Cooperation Council states, excluding Egypt. An informed source has told AL-MADINAH that the Iraqi dictator summoned the Yemeni, Jordanian, and PLO ambassadors and conveyed to them messages implying blackmail—namely, that he would expose all cards if any change occurs in their positions, pointing out that he was in possession of a serious and important document.

Meanwhile AL-MADINAH has learned from informed sources that over 7 million opponents have started to organize their ranks. And that these opponents are receiving instructions from high quarters in the Iraqi

Army. This front is led by an Iraqi Army colonel who, the sources emphasize, may carry out a military coup within the coming weeks. The colonel is backed by a number of Iraqi pilots currently stationed in the area of the Iraqi-Turkish border.

Defense Minister Visits King Faysal Air Base

LD2209185190 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1753 GMT 22 Sep 90

[Excerpts] Tabuk, 22 Sep (SPA)—His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz—second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation, and inspector general—paid a visit before noon today to King Faysal Air Base in the northwest. [passage omitted]

His Highness Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz met the staff of the base and the members of the third air defense group. His highness talked to them and conveyed the greetings of the custodian of the two holy mosques and those of his faithful crown prince. His highness hailed their high morale and hoped that God would grant them victory and success. After that, his highness became acquainted with some aircraft and listened to explanations on them. [passage omitted]

Afterwards, His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz delivered an address, in which he touched upon the current developments in the Arab Gulf and the Kingdom's firm policy of defending its territory, standing on the side of the Arab brothers in all their just positions.

His highness pointed out to the Kingdom's permanent quest for lifting wrongdoing against the Arab and Muslim peoples, and for backing right.

The minister of defense and aviation also greeted in his address the efforts made by the personnel of the Armed Forces, to be always worthy of the responsibility that God has honored them with. [passage omitted]

French Defense Minister Visits Troops in Yanbu

LD2509133890 Paris Domestic Service in French 1300 GMT 25 Sep 90

[Text] Early this afternoon [Defense Minister] Jean-Pierre Chevenement paid a surprise visit to the French troops stationed in Yanbu in Saudi Arabia after having gone to the Hafr-al-Batin region where, according to him, the French troops will be deployed.

The defense minister took advantage of the occasion to recall that France intends to maintain its freedom of engagement, but he pointed out at the same time that it is obvious that in the case of an Iraqi attack the reflex will be one of solidarity.

Government Cancels National Day Celebrations

LD2209175890 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1606 GMT 22 Sep 90

[Text] Jeddah, 22 Sep (SPA)—The Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia announces to all its embassies in the capitals of the states of the world that it has decided to cancel the celebrations that are usually held on the occasion of the Kingdom's national day, which falls tomorrow, Sunday the 1st of al-Mizan, corresponding to the 4th of Rabi' al-Awwal 1411 Hegira, corresponding to September 1990. This is in solidarity with the fraternal state of Kuwait in the painful tragedy that has befallen it due to the vicious Iraqi aggression, and with the subsequent sufferings and deep injuries that have affected the people and government of Kuwait, which in turn have had repercussions on the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] member states, and more still on the peoples and governments of the Arab and Islamic worlds and the international community all over the world.

King Talks by Phone with Hassan II, Mubarak

LD2109215690 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2030 GMT 21 Sep 90

[Text] Jeddah, 21 Sep (SPA)—King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, the custodian of the two holy mosques, today received a telephone call from his brother, His Majesty King Hassan II, king of Morocco.

The custodian of the two holy mosques also received a telephone call from his brother, His Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, president of Egypt.

During the two telephone calls they exchanged views about the current situation in the Arab region.

Qatari Defense Minister Meets Amir in Al-Ta'if

JN2209172390 Manama WAKH in English 1530 GMT 22 Sep 90

[Text] Al-Ta'if, Sept 22 (GNA)—H.H. [His Highness] the Amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah received here today Qatari Crown Prince and Defence Minister Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani.

QATARI NEWS AGENCY learned that developments in the region and those of the Gulf crisis resulting from Iraqi invasion of Kuwait together with GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] joint drives were reviewed during the meeting.

The Qatari heir apparent and defence minister reiterated during the meeting Qatar's principled position demanding immediate withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait, restoration of Kuwait legitimate government and non-recognition of any measure resulting from Iraqi occupation of Kuwait.

The Qatari crown prince arrived in al-Ta'if earlier today.

Confers With King Fahd

LD2209170790 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1620 GMT 22 Sep 90

[excerpt] Jeddah, 22 Sep (SPA)—King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, the custodian of the two holy mosques, may God protect him, received today in his office in the al-Salam palace His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, heir apparent and defense minister of the sisterly state of Qatar and the delegation accompanying him, who conveyed to the custodian of the two holy mosques greetings from his brother His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani, amir of the state of Qatar. [passage omitted]

King Fahd Holds Meeting With Kuwait Amir

LD2309150290 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1430 GMT 23 Sep 90

[Excerpts] King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Sa'ud, the custodian of the two holy mosques, received at al-Salam Palace today his Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, amir of the fraternal state of Kuwait, and his accompanying delegation. The meeting was attended by His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz crown prince, deputy prime minister, and commander of the National Guard; His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud Bin Muhammad Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al-Sa'ud; His Royal Highness Prince Abdallah al-Faysal; His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation, and inspector general; and their royal highnesses princes, their excellencies ministers, and higher officials. [pasage omitted]

King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al-Sa'ud, the custodian of the two holy mosques, and his brother His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, amir of the state of Kuwait, held a meeting at al-Salam Palace today. The meeting was attended by His Royal Highness Prince Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, crown prince, deputy prime minister, and commander of the National Guard. It was also attended by Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs of the state of Kuwait.

His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, amir of the state of Kuwait, left Jeddah today for his residence. He was seen off by King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques, and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz. He was also seen off by a number of princes and ministers.

Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Meets European Delegation

LD2309143990 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1410 GMT 23 Sep 90

[Text] Jeddah, 23 Sep—Shaykh Sabah al-'Ahmad al-Jabir, the deputy Kuwaiti prime minister and foreign minister, met at the Palace of Conferences in Jeddah this afternoon with the European Parliamentary delgation now visiting the Kingdom.

Discussions during the meeting covered the current crisis in the Arab Gulf and the treacherous Iraqi aggression on the State of Kuwait.

The European Parliamentary delegation stressed the need for Iraq's unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait and the restoration of legitimacy to the country.

United Arab Emirates

French Defense Minister Arrives in Abu Dhabi

JN2309160190 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1420 GMT 23 Sep 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 23 Sep (WAKH)—French Defense Minister Jean-Pierre Chevenement arrived in Abu Dhabi today on a visit to the United Arab Emirates.

The French minister's visit is part of a tour of a number of states in the region.

Meets With Zayid

JN2409134690 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 24 Sep 90

[Excerpt] His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the state, received this morning French Defense Minister Jean-Pierre Chevenement. They reviewed, during the meeting, the current developments in the Gulf and the latest developments in the region in light of the continuing Iraqi occupation of the State of Kuwait in addition to ties of cooperation and friendship and ways to reinforce them between the two countries. [passage omitted]

Confers With Defense Minister

JN2409195090 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1450 GMT 24 Sep 90

[Text] Dubayy, 24 Sep (WAKH)—Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Rashid al-Maktum, defense minister of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], met with French Defense Minister Jean-Pierre Chevenement today.

They exchanged views on the consolidation of military cooperation between the UAE and France and on international developments concerning the Gulf crisis and options to end it.

The UAE news agency said Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Rashid Al Maktum stressed to his French counterpart that the peaceful way is the best way to resolve the crisis and ensure Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait.

Comments on Embargo

JN2409201790 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1930 GMT 24 Sep 90

[Excerpt] Dubayy, 24 Sep (WAKH)—French Defense Minister Jean-Pierre Chevenement has said that the economic embargo imposed on Iraq will force Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait and to reapply international law.

Chevenement said that France is struggling for peace and supports justice. It also supports those who defend justice and respect international law. He added: That's why we hastened to extend political and military assistance to the countries in the region that want justice, peace, and stability.

In an interview on United Arab Emirates television from Dubayy, the French defense minister said that France's stand on Iraq's occupation of Kuwait has been explicit from the beginning of the crisis and consists of the rejection of the annexation by a country of the territory of another country by force, particularly since Kuwait is a member of the United Nations, respects international law, and supports justice and rights. He said: We are against the course of action and method that Saddam Husayn has adopted. That is why we asked the United Nations and the international community to oppose this behavior. The international community has chosen to implement economic embargo and naval blockade, and it seems that an air embargo will also be implemented against Iraq to force it to give in to resolutions of the United Nations and the international community and withdraw from Kuwait.

On the size of the French forces and their role in the region within the multinational forces, Chevenement said that France has 13,500 soldiers and 14 vessels, including 1 aircraft carrier, a ground forces brigade, an airborne brigade, helicopter gunships, and fighter aircraft.

Chevenement said his country's forces are tasked with supporting and assisting the other forces in the region. He said: Our direct objective is to tell Saddam Husayn that there is no military solution for him and that he must implement international law and immediately withdraw his forces from Kuwait. [passage omitted]

Explains Objective of Forces

JN2509055390 Manama WAKH in Arabic 2110 GMT 24 Sep 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 24 Sep (WAKH)—French Defense Minister Jean-Pierre Chevenement has stressed that his country is seeking to achieve security and stability under the canopy of respect for the international law. He stressed France's concern for safeguarding peace in the region and for reapplying the international law.

At a press conference he held here this evening, he said that France has adopted measures that would serve the logic of deterrence and respect for international law. He stressed that French President Francois Mitterrand defined these measures in his speech before the UN General Assembly in New York today. The French defense minister said France believes that a formula for a regional balance must be reached providing such a formula is achieved by officials in the region. He expressed his country's readiness to contribute to this.

Answering a question on the areas that will be exposed to Iraqi blows and Iraq's threats to strike at oil installations, the French minister said that these threats must be taken seriously, pointing out that supremacy in the air is not at all in favor of Iraq. He stressed that Iraq's hope of having air supremacy is very weak. He reiterated that the strategy of France and the international community lies in the effective economic embargo that would force Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait and to reapply international law.

Answering another question on coordination among the multinational forces in the region, the French defense minister reiterated his country's readiness to coordinate with the friends. He affirmed that formulas and agreements have been prepared and that they could be amended according to circumstances. He reiterated that France's participation in a war will be determined by a decision from French President Francois Mitterrand. He also expressed confidence in the Saudi Forces. He affirmed that the best means to prevent the deployment of the multinational forces in the region is to reapply the international legitimacy represented by the Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait. He stressed that the presence of land troops is aimed at proving that it is impossible for Iraq to settle the conflict militarily. He pointed out that when the Iraqis withdraw from Kuwait, then all forces will gradually be reduced, and that this was confirmed by the French president in New York today.

Urges Air Embargo Against Iraq

JN2509075790 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0715 GMT 25 Sep 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 25 Sep (WAKH)—French Defense Minister Jean-Pierre Chevenement left Abu Dhabi this morning following a two-day visit to the United Arab Emirates.

In a predeparture statement to WAM [Wakalat Anba' al Imarat], the French defense minister said that should the international community issue an air embargo resolution today, this will rapidly consolidate the effectiveness of the trade blockade on Iraq. Such a resolution will also show the importance of the blockade as a nonmilitary solution, he added.

The French minister went on to say that from the political angle, this would highlight the importance of a unified world public on the blockade, the unity of the international community and its rejection of invasion and occupation through the use of force.

Zayid Receives Kuwaiti Amir's Phone Call

JN2509060490 Manama WAKH in English 1625 GMT 24 Sep 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Sept 24 (GNA)—UAE [United Arab Emirates] President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al

Nuhayyan discussed the Gulf crisis today with Kuwait's Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah during a telephone conversation.

Emirates news agency said Shaykh Zayid reaffirmed the UAE's firm stand which rejects the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait and calls for complete withdrawal of Iraqi troops and non-recognition of Kuwait's annexation and any ensuing results.

Shaykh Zayid said the UAE sticked to its position which stresses the return of the legitimate Kuwaiti government under the leadership of Shaykh Jabir.

Yemen

President Salih Comments on Egypt, Gulf Crisis

JN2409203190 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic
19 Sep 90 p 3

[Interview with President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, by Muhammad 'Awdah and Yusuf al-Sharif; date, place not given]

[Excerpts] [AL-AHALI] We asked the Yemeni president: Based on your contacts and consultations with President Husni Mubarak, are there any new positive developments regarding the Gulf crisis?

[Salih] I think so, because I have expressed my displeasure with the surreptitious machinations being attempted by the media to spread hostility between the Egyptian and Yemeni people in particular. Such attempts might include, for instance, false rumors about Egyptians being mistreated in Yemen, or about banning the entry of Egyptian newspapers and attacking the offices of the Egyptian airline in Sanaa. These are lies which have been exposed by facts and Yemeni official statements on these developments. However—and I do not know why this is happening—the Egyptian press, regrettably, does not pay heed to these official statements. What is more dangerous though are the fabricated reports disseminated by foreign news agencies to the effect that Egyptian forces are stationed on the Saudi border with Yemen. We, of course, are well aware what is behind the propagation of such reports. We know the sinister aims of such reports, and do not believe them, not only because they are lies and falsehoods, but also because of the feelings of appreciation and reverence for the lives of martyrs and the pure Egyptian and Yemeni blood, which has deepened the relations between the two peoples eternally. This was during the epic period of defending the Yemeni revolution and its republican system against the fierce military campaigns launched by the armies of the backward Imamite rule and reactionaries and imperialists through five succesive years.

[AL-AHALI] And what was President Mubarak's opinion?

[Salih] He said that violations by some Egyptian newspapers in this regard are the price of democracy, and that he had made a pledge not to interfere in the freedom of the press.

[AL-AHALI] What is your view regarding the freedom of the press and the price of democracy in Yemen?

[Salih] I think that the nationalist and pan-Arab commitment in Yemen is the real guarantor of democracy. Because, what nationalist or pan-Arab objective can be attained by offending an Arab president or country, just because he has adopted a different view on the Gulf crisis—a view that he, by virtue of his membership in the Arab League and the Security Council, thought to be the correct position? Moreover, what is the nationalist or pan-Arab objective when an Egyptian writer instigates Saudi Arabia and the Gulf countries to expel Yemeni workers in retaliation against their government because it has rejected hasty decisionmaking, sending foreign troops to the region, and blocking Arab initiatives to settle the Gulf crisis peacefully and avert its destructive dangers?

[AL-AHALI] Probably, the reason behind this misunderstanding, whether it is intentional or unintentional, is what has been published and broadcast regarding the ambiguous Yemeni position toward Arab and international resolutions condemning Iraq.

[Salih] But abstention on these resolutions does not mean abandoning the commitment to these resolutions once they are made unanimously. When Iraq declared the annexation of Kuwait, popular demonstrations were staged throughout Yemen denouncing this serious transgression of Arab and international legitimacy. This is precisely the Yemeni Government's stand, and its practical and proclaimed commitment. However, when U.S. and European intervention in the crisis grew so quickly and intensively, popular demonstrations were staged denouncing this serious intervention, which is reminiscent of the bitter struggle against past colonialism.

Our principled position on the Gulf crisis lies in adherence to UN resolutions providing for an economic embargo against Iraq. All rumors about Yemeni violation of these resolutions are baseless. Iraqi oil tankers no longer travel to the Aden refinery; civilian Yemeni aircraft leaving for Jordan have not carried any foodstuffs or commercial goods to Iraq. The only mission assigned to these aircraft was to transport thousands of Yemeni refugees from Kuwait to Sanaa. There is not a single Iraqi soldier or rifle on the land of Yemen. However, it is truly strange that British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd should say in his recent news conference in Sanaa that these rumors on the position of Yemen are lies, while some brother journalists and reporters persist in propagating these rumors.

In my turn, I would like to ask them: What are the justifications and objectives of the Iraqi military presence in Yemen, if the battlefield lies on the eastern edge of the Arabian Peninsula? Transporting Iraqi ground or air forces to Yemen requires passage through Saudi territory and airspace, and it is very easy to monitor such an operation thanks to modern remote sensing technology.

[AL-AHALI] Going back to your series of contacts with President Husni Mubarak. Did you discuss peace initiatives to resolve the Gulf crisis?

[Salih] This is our main preoccupation in all the contacts, and please do not ask me not to discuss this so that these contacts may succeed. But in my last contact with brother President Mubarak, I suggested that we both go to Baghdad, together with any Arab leader willing to take part in the initiative. I believe that explaining to President Saddam Husayn all facts and developments emerging as a result of the annexation of Kuwait will yield positive results and convince him that the alternative to his refusal to withdraw from Kuwait will be total destruction of the Arab nation and real danger to our existence and our pan-Arab causes.

[AL-AHALI] What was President Mubarak's response?

[Salih] Despite the intensity and nature of the media campaigns between Egypt and Iraq because of different positions on the Gulf crisis, President Mubarak discussed the offer seriously. But he then expressed fear that the initiative might fail. However, he gave his consent and support for any serious and integrated Arab plan that would achieve this goal. As a military man, he knows and appreciates the meaning of a war decision—namely, mass destruction to the parties to the conflict and to the Arab region and its resources. [passage omitted]

[AL-AHALI] Do you believe in the existence of foreign schemes to fabricate the Gulf crisis and develop it into such a scenario involving Arab and foreign sides?

[Salih] The wealth and huge oil reserves in the Gulf and Arabian Peninsula have encouraged the enemies to create problems and fabricate crises so they can achieve their dreams and suspicious ambitions.

The foreign schemes, therefore, are being implemented in accordance with a scenario prepared in advance outside the region. The Arab nation must understand these conspiracies and their dimensions. This is not the first conspiracy against our nation, although the means to confront and expose it are different. [passage omitted]

[AL-AHALI] What will your position be if the American-European military aggression against Iraq takes place?

[Salih] First, Yemen is not party to the problem. I believe, however, that such a military aggression against Iraq will not take place for reasons linked to the Americans' and Europeans' own calculations. They are not ready to make any sacrifices in this encounter, which will continue to be limited to economic and diplomatic aspects for a relatively long time. [passage omitted]

Official on Continued Saudi 'Provocations'

JN2309131390 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 21 Sep 90 p 1

["Exclusive" report]

[Text] Tension in Yemeni-Saudi ties heightened recently. The tension peaked when the Saudi Government canceled the residence, work, and investment privileges granted to more than 1 million Yemenis living in Saudi Arabia and effectively contributing to its economy.

Experts in Yemeni affairs said that signs of tension in Saudi-Yemeni ties emerged with the beginnings of the merger between the two parts of Yemen and the consequent abolition of the previous contradictions which used to separate the sons of the same people, and with their unity in a single country whose population totals 14 million people; that is, a country whose population exceeds that of the entire population of the Gulf Cooperation Council member states. These experts added that official Saudi quarters were not comfortable with unified Yemen's joining the Arab Cooperation Council and by its maintaining close ties with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn. These quarters were also uncomfortable with Yemen's failure to support the recent Cairo summit resolutions which called for the dispatch of Arab forces to the Gulf region to join the U.S. troops and the troops of other Gulf states deployed there.

Observers noticed that although it was not satisfied with the Yemeni position on the Gulf crisis, the Saudi Government maintained silence for the first 40 days of the crisis. However, it broke this silence on Tuesday [18 September] when Saudi newspapers quoted statements made by an unidentified Arab diplomat published in Cairo AL-AHRAM containing an implicit threat to Yemen. The following is an excerpt from these statements: "Yemen's stand in support of Iraq in the Gulf crisis might have a destructive impact on Yemen if war breaks out and Sanaa decides to seize the opportunity to perform military activities against Saudi Arabia in a bid to resolve border disputes with it through the use of force. This is because the Saudis would be compelled to react violently. One of their military options would be to deal destructive air and missile strikes against Yemeni military, strategic, and oil installations, all of which without exception fall within the range of their aircraft and other weapons."

Observers dwelt on the paragraph contained in the unidentified diplomat's statements in which he spoke of Saudi Arabia's intention to seek the help of the multinational forces to confront any Yemeni attack, and possibly the help of "tens of thousands of Yemenis residing in the Kingdom who volunteered to defend it". The diplomat hinted about the possibility of a civil war's breaking out in Yemen, similar to the one which erupted in the sixties in which pro-Saudi tribes fought Sanaa.

When AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI asked a Yemeni official contacted by telephone on the content of these statements and the timing of their publication, the official admitted that the ties between the two countries are continuously deteriorating. He also said that the Saudi Government has continued over the past two months to indulge in "provocations" against Yemen.

The Yemeni official revealed that Saudi troops had approached the borders, occupied Yemeni lands, and set up positions and barricades there. However, the Yemeni Government has not replied to this provocation to thwart any attempts to drag Yemen into a military involvement in the Gulf crisis, the official added.

The official indicated that the Saudi Government revived the League of South Yemen which comprised Yemeni opponents and began contacts with tribal leaders to instigate them against the central government.

The official stressed that the Yemeni Government will exercise self-restraint and will not take any hasty step to reply to these provocations.

However, the extraordinary meeting the Council of Ministers held yesterday and in which it decided to urge Saudi Arabia to reconsider its measures which canceled the facilities granted to Yemeni nationals in Saudi Arabia, and the affirmation by the Council of Yemen's right to pursue the required ways and means to face this danger, might reflect a new Yemeni turning point in dealing with the Saudi neighbor.

A Yemeni diplomat commented by saying that the Yemenis were divided in the sixties because Yemen was divided into two parts. Moreover, two groups, a Royalist one and a Republican one, were competing for exclusive control of the central government at the time. Now, all these divisions have disappeared. When there is an external danger, all the people rally behind their leadership, the diplomat said

Parliamentary Committee Statement

JN2309181190 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 23 Sep 90

["Text" of statement issued "today" by the Council of Representatives' Foreign Affairs and Expatriates Committee]

[Text] In its extraordinary meeting of 22 September 1990, the Council of Representatives' Foreign Affairs and Expatriates Committee discussed the measures announced by the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia concerning the sons of the Yemeni community. After reviewing the statement issued by the Saudi Interior Ministry on Wednesday, 19 September 1990, regarding the new restrictions imposed on the residence and the activities of the Yemeni community in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Committee expressed its deep regret for such a decision and the injustice it will do to the legitimate and acquired rights of the sons of the Republic of Yemen, who have given their lives to the building of the Kingdom both before oil was discovered and up to now.

The Council of Representatives's Foreign Affairs and Expatriates Committee, while urging the brothers in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to reconsider the measures taken, urges the government of our country to take measures to safeguard the rights of the Yemeni citizens and their property. At the same time, the Committee stresses that concern for maintaining the relations of good neighborliness and historical ties between the two fraternal countries requires action to spare both countries anything that might block or tarnish their good relations.

The serious situation the Arab region is experiencing requires all brothers to deal with events with wisdom and rationality, and not to succumb to uncalled-for reactions. Therefore, and on the basis of our leadership's principled and firm political stands to contain the crisis and resolve it peacefully within the Arab context, the Committee calls for a halt to any measure that would harm the interest of our Yemeni people, who have not hesitated to respond to the good efforts to strengthen peace and stability in the region and protect its independence and sovereignty, and who have always shouldered their pan-Arab responsibilities with sincerity and competence.

The Committee finds no reason whatsoever for such measures against our Yemeni sons in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia at the current time; they have always taken interest in the Kingdom's security and well-being and striven on behalf of its commercial and economic progress. If the Saudi authorities' measures reflect a misunderstanding of the Yemeni position on pan-Arab causes, Yemen has always been interested in not being party to inter-Arab conflict. Its pan-Arab view of the unity of Arab ranks dictates that it endeavor to close any gaps among brothers, regardless of their nature and origin. This is what it has done, and this will remain its course regarding the recent Iraq-Kuwait issue.

Once again the Committee stress its sincere call to the brothers in the Kingdom and stresses that everybody's task in the current phase must be to overcome all wounds that are still present in our nation, and not to create more wounds. The recent measures against our Yemeni people are only a call to open wounds that can never be healed.

Congratulations Cabled to Saudi Crown Prince

JN2309181690 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 23 Sep 90

[Text] Brother Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, the prime minister, has sent a cable of congratulations to His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, crown prince, first deputy prime minister, and head of the National Guard in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, on the occasion of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's national day.

Former Turkish Prime Minister Meets With Saddam

*NC2109155390 Istanbul MILLIYET in Turkish
20 Sep 90 p 12*

[Report by Derya Sazak, director of MILLIYET's office in Ankara, on interview with President Saddam Hussayn by Bulent Ecevit, former prime minister of Turkey, in Baghdad; date not given]

[Excerpts] Bulent Ecevit, Turkey's former prime minister, arrived in Baghdad to follow the Gulf crisis in the region on behalf of MILLIYET. He met President Saddam Husayn two nights ago. Derya Sazak, director of MILLYET's office in Ankara, attended the meeting.

The historic meeting, which began at the presidential palace and continued at Saddam Husayn's special headquarters, lasted for two and one-half hours. Thus, MILLIYET was the first newspaper to have an exclusive interview with Saddam Husayn. [passage omitted]

While discussing the Gulf crisis with Bulent Ecevit, Saddam Husayn conveyed two messages to Turkey and to the world at large. His message to the world was as follows: "If war breaks out, the United States will not be able to maintain its present superiority. It will be caught by the trap it has set against Iraq."

Message to the Turkish People

Replying to a question by Derya Sazak, Saddam Husayn conveyed the following message to the Turkish people: "We are friends. We do not consider the possibility of a threat from Turkey against Iraq. Nor will Turkey be harmed by Iraq."

This was the first time Saddam Husayn indirectly commented on the powers the Turkish parliament gave to the Turkish Government in connection with the use of military force. He hinted that he was not influenced by the reports that a front can be opened against Iraq in the northern part of Iraq. Saddam Husayn also revealed that he attaches great importance to Iraq's friendly and neighborly relations with Turkey. [passage omitted]

Saddam's Question to Ecevit

Bulent Ecevit began his discussion with Saddam Husayn by explaining the reason for his visit to Iraq. Ecevit said:

"I am both a politician and a journalist. Sometimes, it is useful to perform the two functions at the same time. Had I visited Iraq only in the capacity of a politician, I could have been regarded as a person who wishes to mediate. However, the idea did not cross my mind. Nevertheless, as a citizen of a country in the Middle East, I have been disturbed by having to follow what is taking place next to my country's border only through the mass media organs of the western countries. [passage omitted]

"I thank you for the time you have spared to meet me at such troubled times."

Saddam Husayn responded to what Bullent Ecevit said by asserting the following:

"Allow me to speak on behalf of the press in Iraq and begin our discussion with a question."

He then asked how President Turgut Ozal's approach on the latest crisis in the Middle East can be explained.

Bulent Ecevit replied by saying that he had been in touch neither with President Ozal nor with the Turkish government. He noted the existence of an effective public opinion in Turkey, and that the Turkish public opinion traditionally refrained from interfering in the problems among the Arab countries. He also asserted that Turkish public opinion is opposed to Turkey being dragged into a war.

Ecevit noted that he believed the Turks should look at what is taking place in the Middle East with their own eyes and not from the point of view of the United States and the West European countries. He also pointed out that the causes of the developments in the Middle East are not sufficiently known in foreign countries.

Saddam Husayn made a lengthy statement after what Bulent Ecevit said. He detailed the problems between Iraq and Kuwait and explained their causes.

Historical situation

Saddam Husayn claimed that Kuwait was a district of the province of al-Basrah in the past, but that the British separated it from Iraq prior to World War I. Noting that many govermment changes took place in Iraq since then, and that pro-western governments also came to power in the country, Saddam Husayn asserted that all had regarded Kuwait as a part of Iraq and made an effort to have the two countries united.

Saddam Husayn argued that his administration carefully tried to maintain "fraternal" relations with Kuwait. Meanwhile, he gave examples to prove that the family which ruled Kuwait continuously expanded the borders of that country at the expense of Iraq. Saddam Husayn said that Kuwait was merely a walled town at its inception. However, it began to move its border guardpost toward the north as of 1960, and grabbed the opportunity created by the Iran-Iraq war to extract oil within Iraq.

Saddam Husayn stressed that the Kuwaiti officials were not satisfied with all this and tried to weaken Iraq's economy by lowering their oil prices. He explained that this had placed Iraq in a very difficult position.

Claiming that Kuwait neither attached importance to Iraq's complaints in that regard nor responded to Iraq's calls for an agreement, Saddam Husayn described Kuwait's attitude toward his country as one which implied a state of war against Iraq. He also recalled that Iraq has a very small coastline in the Gulf, and noted that it is blocked off by two islands which belong to Kuwait. Saddam Husayn said that this state of affairs made Iraq as an inland country.

Ecevit's Approach

After the hearing Saddam's disclosures, Ecevit said:

"The inclination to describe your annexation of Kuwait as an occupation is very wide-spread in the world. [passage omitted]

"I believe that unless Kuwait, which is a small country, was supported and encouraged by a much larger country, it would not have risked turning a deaf ear to your complaints." [passage omitted]

After hearing what Bulent Ecevit had to say, Saddam Husayn asserted the following:

"Allow me to explain my views on the matter. It must be agreed that those who set traps in the wrong places sometimes get caught in their own traps. As I have mentioned earlier, I am convinced that the Americans encouraged the Kuwaiti Administration to adopt a position against Iraq with a view to forcing Iraq to fall on its knees. However, I believe that the Americans have not sufficiently studied Iraq. We are not a nation which falls on its knees to kiss the feet of those who advance against it. We are a peaceful nation and we love peace. We can make many concessions for the sake of peace. However, if there are those who wish to force us to fall on our knees, then we know how to behead them before we collapse. This is what has happened to the Kuwaiti officials.

A Lesson for the Americans

"There is a lesson the Americans should learn from all this. Making threats is not in my nature. Nor is it in the nature of the Iraqi people and my colleagues in the administration. We do not resort to threats. Nor are we a boastful people. However, I wish to make my conviction known without being assertive that the Americans have fallen into their own trap.

[Passage omitted] "It is true that a trap has been set against us. It has been set with a view to forcing us to fall on our knees. Had we been inclined to fall on our knees, we would have fallen into that trap.

"Now, if we were to tell our people that they are 'going to eat nothing else but bread,' they would thank God for that. However, if we allowed ourselves to be tricked by those who wished to destroy our economy prior to our annexation of Kuwait on 2 August, we would have created a situation in which our people would have found nothing else but bread to eat. Under such circumstances, convincing the Iraqi people that our stand is right would have been very difficult.

Further on Meeting

NC2209112790 Istanbul MILLIYET in Turkish 22 Sep 90 p 12

[Report by Derya Sazak, director of MILLIYET's Ankara office, on interview with President Saddam Husayn by Bulent Ecevit, former prime minister of Turkey, in Baghdad; date not given]

[Excerpts] Saddam Husayn interrupted the lengthy statement he made in his comfortable chair in the presidential headquarters to underline Iraq's historic claims on Kuwait. Displaying the fastidious approach of a staff officer, he also drew up a rough map of the Gulf region. [passage omitted]

Although Saddam Husayn moved after annexing Kuwait to underline the historical realities and Iraq's national rights in the region, it is completely impossible for him to find international support for his expansion in the Gulf. In fact, Iraq is currently searching for an escape avenue in the face of the gradually increasing pressure of the economic embargo.

Although Saddam Husayn does not seem to be prepared to retreat from his present position, it is true that he is now completely isolated and besieged. In fact, the new initiatives being made for an air embargo against Iraq have been assessed in Baghdad as a "disturbing" development. [passage omitted]

Saddam Husayn's rejection of the formulas for Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait, which has given the impression that the Iraqi leader has "preferred to fight a war against the United States," has created the anxiety that a spark could cause an explosion in the Middle East, which now seems like a powder keg. Saddam Husayn has "burned his boats," as in the case of Tariq Bin Ziyad in Gibraltar in the past. He even gave up his claim on the Shatt-al-Arab waterway, for which he waged a war for eight years. That Saddam Husayn has relinquished Iraq's sovereignty over this region to Iran is yet another indication that he cannot give up Kuwait. Therefore, unless military force is used to defeat Saddam Husayn, the Iraqi regime will not agree to retreat from where it now stands.

In view of this, Iraq has decided to fight a war in its southern sector and has moved to take up positions there. Meanwhile, it does not wish to consider the possibility of an "attack" from its "northern front." That is why it has been carefully trying to avoid alarming Turkey. Creating a dispute with its northern neighbor is not in the Saddam regime's interest for the time being. The Iraqi regime has completely dismissed the idea of a "hot clash" with a country like Turkey, which has U.S. bases in its territory and is under NATO's protective umbrella. Nevertheless, a number of foreign diplomats who have entered Turkey from Iraq through the Habur border gate have disclosed that Iraq is engaged in military activities in that region as well.

The covert message Iraqi officials tried to convey in private meetings was related to the bases in Turkey. They said: "Since the Turks are in command of the bases, then Turkey can prevent the U.S. aircraft from creating a fait accompli. A number of military aircraft that transported arms to the region during the Iran-Iraq war were not allowed to use Turkey as a bridge. A similar approach can be adopted now to place the U.S. aircraft at the bases under control." [passage omitted]

The Iraqi regime conveyed messages of friendship and peace through the dialogue Bulent Ecevit established during the three days we were in Baghdad. Saddam Husayn also discussed the question of the ships that have been turned back because of the embargo. He carefully avoided mentioning Turkey in that regard, however. [passage omitted]

Another point that has disheartened the Iraqi regime is this: The tankers that carried 37 million barrels of oil purchased by U.S. companies prior to 2 August delivered their oil to U.S. ports after traveling for nearly 40 days. Although the U.S. Administration asked foreign countries, Turkey in particular, to impose an embargo against Iraq, it silently received the tankers carrying Iraq's oil. While the United States received the tankers, Turkey cut off the supply of powdered milk for Iraqi children.

These are two examples pointed out by the Iraqi regime. Iraq described the policy that led to this outcome as "regrettable," however. Nevertheless, Iraqi Minister of Oil al-Jalabi, who met with Turkey's Isin Celebi at the Habur border gate some time ago, has not given up hope on Iraq's new proposals. Aware that Turkey would reject the offer Iraq made to the Third World countries to supply them with oil "free of charge," Baghdad has considered another formula.

Iraq has proposed to sign a new five-year agreement with Turkey, which will also include the offer to supply $2 billion worth of oil free of charge. Baghdad has informed Ankara that it wishes to have the oil pipeline between Iraq and Turkey, which was closed as a result of the Gulf crisis, reopened. Meanwhile, Iraq has made a number of proposals to the Western countries as well. For example, it has drawn up a package of projects for France worth $15 billion. Iraq's objective is to break out of isolation and rid itself of the embargo, which has turned into a "war of nerves," as quickly as possible.

Although the morale of Saddam and his colleagues seems high, they are gradually finding themselves in greater difficulty.

Islamic Delegation Arrives in Baghdad 24 Sep

JN2409170590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1609 GMT 24 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Sep (INA)—Shaykh As'ad Bayyud al-Tamimi, leader of the Islamic Jihad-Bayt al-Maqdis Movement, arrived in Baghdad today leading a delegation on a several-day visit to Iraq.

In a statement to the INA correspondent, Shaykh As'ad Bayyud al-Tamimi stressed that the U.S. and foreign presence in the land of Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] is not only intended to protect their interests in the region, but also to prevent the unity of the Arab nation and the growing awakening in the Muslim world, which will mark the end of Zionism. He urged all Muslims the world over to unite and join forces to strike at and defeat the invaders, who have desecrated the land of sanctities and the tomb of the noble prophet.

Saddam Addresses Popular Islamic Delegation

JN2409150890 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1404 GMT 24 Sep 90

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn has received the members of the [popular] Islamic delegation. His excellency heard speeches made by several delegation members in which they praised President Saddam Husayn's leadership of the battle of confrontation against the imperialist-Zionist onslaught, which has targeted Muslim security and sanctities and the birthplace of heavenly messages and messengers. They also expressed support for Iraq in its militant [jihadiyah] stance.

Leader President Saddam Husayn spoke during the meeting and answered questions and answers posed by the delegation members. Leader President Saddam Husayn stressed that Kuwait is Iraqi, and we will not give it up even if we have to fight over it for a thousand years. The matter is over now. They are a people who have returned to the fold; a land that has been restored to its people. It has been returned to the faith after having been a place where infidelity was practiced.

His excellency discussed certain examples of the conduct of the former ruling family in Kuwait, and specific details about their conspiratorial and subversive role against Iraq. In part of his talk the leader president touched on certain points mentioned by his excellency in a speech he delivered at the Amman summit of the Arab Cooperation Council in February [1990], the analyses put forward by his excellency in his speech, and his forecast of what is occurring now regarding the execution of the U.S. scheme to occupy the region and control its oil.

His excellency said: The problem of the good people in this region, of which we are part, lies in two matters: The Palestine question—that is, Palestine belongs to its people, and Jerusalem must be liberated. We constantly set our eyes on Jerusalem, even when those eyes are in Baghdad.

The other issue is America's tyrannic threat in the world and against mankind. This danger is aimed against the Arabs for reasons known to all the Muslims and all the faithful people who believe in God. Oil is a blessing that should not be turned into a curse; however, it will be turned into a curse when its revenues are hoarded in foreign banks, and it will become a blessing when it is used for the benefit of people and for God's sake.

The leader president also affirmed that almighty God's selection of the Arabs as the material of Islam and the permanent guardians of faith, who clearly insisted on bringing good news about all prophets and messages, is not a privilege or an exalted position, but a responsibility and a service to Islam and Muslims. His excellency said: In our oil region there are great, and not small, tragedies.

The individual who owns property without work cannot be anything but a terrorist, and cannot view wealth from the standpoint of the faithful. Oil has destroyed faith after destroying morals.

After his excellency discussed this issue, giving examples and evidence, he said: Oil has been used for corruption and corrupting. His excellency also affirmed that the scope is now wide enough for all the knights, all the trends, and all the interpretations. What is required from us is not to make the doorway small. If the doorway is narrow, there will be friction at the door.

But if the doorway is wide, there will be no friction. Now the doors are wide enough, and they have to become wider and wider, God willing. We have to go back to the fundamentals; and if we go back to the basics, the door will become wide. Only then there will be no friction. His excellency invited the members of the Islamic delegation to visit Kuwait to see for themselves the type of Kuwaiti society and the nature of life their rulers created for them.

Deal Linking 'Aziz Travel With Hostages Rejected

JN2409154090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1507 GMT 24 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Sep (INA)—INA has learned the following:

After informing the UN secretary general yesterday, 23 September 1990, of the foreign minister's letter explaining the Iraqi Government's decision regarding the foreign minister's nonparticipation in the UN General Assembly session currently convening in New York as a result of the U.S. authorities' refusal to allow the minister and his entourage to travel by a private plane, contacts were made between the UN secretary general's office and our permanent representative in New York. It emerged from those contacts that the U.S. authorities have offered a deal linking the consideration of allowing the minister's plane [to land in New York] and the condition of Americans in Iraq and allowing them to travel.

Iraq has informed the UN secretary general today that the issue of the minister's travel to New York is not a bilateral Iraqi-U.S. issue, but an issue related to the U.S. commitments toward the United Nations. Therefore, Iraq refuses to make any connection between this and any other issue.

Bush 'Trial' Scheduled To Begin 15 Oct

JN2509070590 Baghdad INA in English 1540 GMT 24 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, Sept 24, INA—The preparatory committee for trying American President George Bush said the trial starting on 15th next October will be an international demonstration to condemn the atrocities of the U.S. Administration against the human rights and which Bush bear full responsiblity.

Mr. Hamid al-Rawi, chairman of the committee, said during a TV interview here that the American president will be tried for the acts he had done against Iraq and the Arab nation and that the charges against him will be focused on planning for launching an aggressive war against Iraq and inciting other countries to take part in it. The charges also include Bush mobilization of fleets and armies in the Gulf preliminary for this aggression and also imposing blockade on Iraq by armed force with the object of starving its children, women and elderly people in contradiction to the U.N. Charter and all human laws.

The charges against the American president also cover his economic, military and political cooperation with the Zionist entity for annihilating the Palestinian people. Bush will be also charged for the killings committed in Panama and occupation of Grenada.

Mr. al-Rawi said that invitations were extended to several Arab and international personalities to attend the trial sessions as members of the court or the defence body and that the court will invite the American president through the American Embassy to face the charges otherwise the court will assign a lawyer for defending him.

He added that the court sessions will be open and several Arab and foreign information media organs and journalists will be invited to attend them.

Ministry Clarifies French Diplomatic Incident

JN2309191990 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1825 GMT 23 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Sep (INA)—A Foreign Ministry spokesman has revealed the details of what was described by the French authorities as the raid on the home of the former French ambassador in Kuwait.

In a statement to INA, the spokesman said that the Foreign Ministry has followed up on the French allegations about the so-called raid on the home of the former French ambassador in the Governorate of Kuwait. The Foreign Ministry conducted a thorough investigation of the issue that included all the people concerned until it became clear that the former French ambassador's home there belonged to one of the members of the former ruling family and that the house was located outside the diplomatic quarter. The soldiers who were entrusted with inspection and guard duty in the city made a mistake in determining the building.

The spokesman added: When the officer in charge of the soldiers learned about the mistake and found out that one of the persons in the house was a former diplomat, despite our decision to lift diplomatic immunity from members of the former embassies that had not closed their embassies on the set date, 24 August, the aforementioned person received good treatment and was allowed to return to his site of employment.

The spokesman pointed out that the other three people, who were not diplomats, were sent to the Hyatt Regency Hotel and were later flown to Baghdad, where they resided at al-Mansur Hotel. No measures were taken against them except they were prevented from travel—a decision that affects Westerners. Immediately after they arrived in Baghdad, a meeting was arranged for them with the French charge d'affaires.

The spokesman stressed that while clarifying these facts, the Foreign Ministry apologizes for the previous statement through which it described the incident and declares that the competent Iraqi authorities had and have no objective behind the aforementioned incident, whose facts prove that it was the result of a misunderstanding.

Kurdish Opposition Leaders Seek Unity, Support

Factions Seek Common Action

NC2509074790 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 25 Sep 90

[Text] Jalal Talabani, leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, declared in Damascus yesterday that an agreement will soon be concluded for common action among the various currents of Iraqi opposition. Talabani told AFP that meetings are under way and views are getting closer, and this will soon lead to the announcement of an agreement on the general principles during a general conference for Iraqi opposition which will be held in Damascus soon.

In a related development, Shaykh Muhammad Taqi Modarresi, leader of the Islamic Action Organization, has stated that should the Iraqi opposition, which numbers approximately 1.5 million members, unify its efforts and receive backing, it could manage, with the help of the domestic opposition in Iraq as well as the economic sanctions imposed by the United Nations, to overthrow Saddam Husayn.

Talabani on Western Support

PM2409111990 Paris L'EXPRESS in French 28 Sep 90 p 13

[Interview with Jalal Talabani, chairman of Patriotic Union of Iraqi Kurdistan, by Jean-Michel Caradec'h: "Kurds: Parisian Support"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [L'EXPRESS] What do you expect from the French government?

[Talabani] We hope that France will help to establish the Kurdish problem on the Western countries' agendas and that, in the event on a conference on the Middle East, the Kurdish question will be placed on the agenda there too. We would also like the French Government to give its official support to the Kurdish democratic liberation movements.

[L'EXPRESS] What kind of support?

[Talabani] Primarily diplomatic and moral. But we will accept any aid, be it financial, humanitarian, or even military.

[L'EXPRESS] Have you sought military aid?

[Talabani] I do not believe that weapons are the main factor in the war. In 1975 we were equipped with sophisticated weapons and trained regiments, but East and West supported Iraq against us. We would prefer moral and political support first of all, then military aid.

[L'EXPRESS] Do you have news from Kurdistan?

[Talabani] We are in permanent contact. The Peshmergas are everywhere, but their current activity is basically political. The Kurdistan Front cannot go on the attack for the time being because of the considerable Iraqi military occupation. By the way, the Iraqis have also sent Western hostages to Kurdistan, to Dukan, Kirkuk, and some other cities.

[L'EXPRESS] What do you think of the U.S. presence in the Gulf?

[Talabani] We do not like the fact that there is a foreign force in our region. But we state that the responsibility for the conflict is borne by Iraq.

[L'EXPRESS] Do you think that Saddam Husayn will back down?

[Talabani] Husayn's principle is to do everything possible to protect his dictatorship. I do not think that he can withdraw from Kuwait easily. He has failed to understand the new world order of the post-cold war period. And he is at an impasse. I think that he is likely to plunge the world into war.

[L'EXPRESS] What will the Kurds do?

[Talabani] We will not automatically open a second front but we will act according to our interests.

'Abd-al-Rahman on Saddam

PM2509142790 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 23 Sep 90 p 3

[Unattributed interview with Sami 'Abd-al-Rahman, secretary general of the People's Democratic Party of (Iraqi) Kurdistan, in Paris, date unspecified]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] What is the Kurds' present position on the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait and the crisis as a whole?

['Abd-al-Rahman] We have condemned the invasion since the day it took place, because it conflicts with all values, all international laws, Arab solidarity, and the Iraqi people's interests. Thus we demanded the Iraqi forces' withdrawal from Kuwait. If they do not withdraw, we fear that the region as a whole will be exposed to very major threats. The Iraqi people are the first to be harmed badly.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] What is the Iraqi opposition's status inside the country and abroad?

['Abd-al-Rahman] The Iraqi opposition is a strong opposition in every sense of the word. The leaderships have been forced to be based abroad because of Saddam's oppression. These leaderships are now based in Middle East countries, in Europe, and in the United States. We believe that, with their various inclinations, they are present in the hearts of the Iraqi people. As for open opposition, it cannot exist in Iraq so long as Saddam is in power. But if an imbalance occurred and the opposition inside and abroad united, the opposition would easily and quickly fill the vacuum. The Kurdish opposition occupies a special position: first, because it is the strongest element in the Iraqi opposition; second, because it is democratic; and third, because we are bound to the other opposition parties by excellent and brotherly relations. There are other three trends in addition to the Kurdish trend: There is a leftist democratic trend, an Islamic trend, and a pan-Arab trend. Our relations with all these are good.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Can the opposition inside the country move to topple Saddam?

['Abd-al-Rahman] Anything is possible, is it not? We have confirmed information that demonstrations were staged in Mosul on 7 September and continued for two days. Two days later, that is on 9 September, the Iraqi authorities opened fire on the demonstrators, and as a result 50 Iraqis were martyred. In addition, some Army units could move against the regime. That is, it is possible to destroy Saddam. It is not impossible.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Why has the Army still not rebelled against him?

['Abd-al-Rahman] Probably one of the major concerns of anyone contemplating military rebellion is the use of chemical weapons by Saddam, even against his own forces if they rebel against him. [passage omitted]

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] You were a minister in the Iraqi government under Saddam Husayn, with whom you met over 30 times over four years. How would you analyze his personality?

['Abd-al-Rahman] I think he is successful in terms of tactics. But in terms of strategy and principles he is very weak. He wants to stay in power at any cost.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Would he back down in order to stay?

['Abd-al-Rahman] I think so.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] That was reflected during his talks with Iran.

['Abd-al-Rahman] Yes. He concluded the Algiers Agreement in 1975 to destroy the Kurdish revolution. In 1980 he sensed that the religious tendency in Iraq was growing at Iran's behest, so he did not hesitate to tear up the agreement on television. Then he launched a war against Iran and the agreement. And after eight years of slogans which claimed 1 million martyred and maimed among the Iraqi and Iranian peoples—after all this we saw him forfeit everything, without consulting anyone and with one stroke of a pen. Where are the principles, where is the credibility?!

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] What is the extent of popular support for Saddam among the Iraqi people? And can an opposition move be launched inside?

['Abd-al-Rahman] I believe that there may be some people who benefit from Saddam and thus support him. But the majority fear his oppression and cannot express their views freely. That terrible police grip in Iraq must be shaken by one means or another. There is no police state in the world like the Iraqi state—I am sure of that. [passage omitted]

Nation May Release 16 'Ailing and Aged' Japanese

OW2209131090 Tokyo KYODO in English 1143 GMT 22 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, Sep 22 (KYODO)—Japanese parliamentarian Antonio Inoki said on Saturday that he had gained a prospect that Iraq will release 16 ailing and aged people among Japanese held hostage. The pro wrestler-cum-legislator made the remark to reporters after a one-hour meeting with First Deputy Premier Taha Yasin Ramadan. Inoki said he conveyed Japanese people's concern to Ramadan about the safety of Japanese hostages detained in Iraq. Ramadan said he understood and pledged to do his utmost.

At least 141 Japanese nationals are known to be detained in strategic installations in Iraq and Iraqi-occupied Kuwait. Inoki chose the 16 people among them and handed the list of their names to Ramadan. Inoki, a member of the House of Councillors, arrived here Sunday on a private visit to seek the release of the elderly and sick Japanese held hostage. He met Iraqi National Assembly Speaker Saadi Mehdi Salih on Wednesday and Chairman of the Iraqi Olympic Committee Iday Saddam Husayn, son of President Saddam Husayn on Thursday.

Italian Company Employees Offer Food to Nation

JN2409140890 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1235 GMT 24 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Sep (INA)—Employees of the Italian stock company Felipo Fugi [as received] who are working in Iraq have decided to share with the Iraqi children the foodstuffs sent to them from outside Iraq.

A responsible source at the Ministry of Industry and Military Industrialization has told INA that the employees of this company—which is involved in several industrial projects in Iraq—have offered two truckloads of foodstuffs, including quantities of flour, sugar, and powdered milk.

The sources stressed that the company employees have expressed their willingness to continue offering foodstuffs and pharmaceuticals from their share if the need arises.

Kuwaiti Dinar To Withdraw From Circulation

JN2309151490 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1432 GMT 23 Sep 90

[Text] The economic committee has issued a decision withdrawing all denominations of the Kuwaiti dinar from circulation and compensating the bearers for its nominal value in Iraqi dinars on the basis of one Iraqi dinar for each Kuwaiti dinar. The following is the text of the decision:

Decision:
After the merger between Iraq and Kuwait and the return of the branch to the root, in light of the economic committee's decision to equate the Kuwaiti dinar with the Iraqi dinar, and to facilitate the exchange process, to simplify all types of transctions throughout Iraq, and to end duality in currency circulation, the following decision has been made:

1. To withdraw all the denominations and coins of the Kuwaiti dinar from circulation and to compensate its bearers for its nominal value in Iraqi dinars on the basis of one Iraqi dinar for each Kuwaiti dinar.
2. The exchange will begin at 0800 on 24 September 1990 and will end at the close of work hours at the commercial banks on 6 October 1990.
3. The Kuwaiti dinar shall be considered illegal as of the expiration of the said period of exchange stated in Paragraph No. 2 above.

Kuwaitis Given Month To Replace Licenses, Plates

JN2309182290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1750 GMT 23 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Sep (INA)—The general traffic directorate has urged the citizens in the Governorate of Kuwait to refer to the traffic directorate in the governorate to replace their driver's licenses and their vehicles' license plates.

In a statement issued today, the general traffic directorate gave only one month beginning from the day after tomorrow, Tuesday, 25 September 1990.

Further on DFLP's Hawatimah Visit to Baghdad

Confers With 'Aziz

JN2209115590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1018 GMT 22 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, 22 Sep (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, today received Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], and the accompanying delegation. They discussed developments in the Arabian Gulf. The meeting was attended by the chief of the Arab Desk at the Foreign Ministry.

Meets With Saddam

JN2409160690 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1411 GMT 24 Sep 90

[Text] President Saddam Husayn today received Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP]. They discussed developments in occupied Palestine, the dangers posed by the U.S. deployments in Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] against national security and regional stability, and ways of confronting U.S. aggression and threats against Iraq.

Nayif Hawatimah conveyed to leader President Saddam Husayn the greetings of the steadfast Palestinian people in the occupied territories and the people of the intifadah. He stressed that all the Palestinian people, both inside Palestine and outside the occupied territory, stand on Iraq's side in its confrontation of the U.S. aggression and its war machine deployed in the land of Najd and Hejaz.

Mr. Nayif Hawatimah reaffirmed the support of the steadfast Palestinian people and the intifadah revolutionaries to the leader president in his courageous pan-Arab stand, from which they see that the battle to liberate Palestine has already begun and that victory is closer than ever.

The leader president praised the militant, courageous stand taken by the people of the intifadah and all Palestinians. His excellency stressed that the battle against the U.S.-Zionist aggression and threat is the battle to liberate Palestine and the battle of all Arabs—and that victory is theirs, God willing.

The meeting was attended by [Foreign Minister] Tariq 'Aziz; [DFLP] Political Bureau Members Falih Muhsin 'Abd-al-Ahad and Saji Salamah Khalil; and Salih Hasan al-Shami and Ahmad Dakhil al-Jamal, DFLP Central Committee members.

Saddam Receives PPSF Secretary General

JN2409165290 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1414 GMT 24 Sep 90

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn today received Samir Ghawshah, secretary general of the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front [PPSF]. During the meeting, they discussed developments in the occupied Palestinian territories, the U.S. aggression against the Arab lands in Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] and threats against the militant steadfast Iraq; and the dangers resulting from the aggression which threatens the Arab nation's security, sovereignty, and independence.

Addressing leader President Saddam Husayn, Samir Ghawshah said: I bring to you the warmest greetings from the people of the intifadah and the sons of the Palestinian people. I also carry their pledge to you that they are preparing themselves to be soldiers under your command in this honorable, pan-Arab battle.

He added: We clearly realize that the U.S. buildup—as well as those siding with it—in its preparation for an aggression against Iraq does not target Iraq alone, but the entire nation. It also intends to strike at the Palestine question.

He stressed that the Palestinian people consider this battle to be their own, and that they will fight it on all levels.

Leader President Saddam Husayn expressed his pride in the position adopted by the Palestinian people and the intifadah revolutionaries to the side of their brothers in Iraq. He stressed that the U.S. buildup to stage aggression against Iraq aims to strike at Iraq's principled pan-Arab stance toward its central cause—the liberation of Palestine. His excellency stressed that victory is imminent and is approaching, God willing. He said: I see it, as if I am celebrating it now.

The meeting was attended by [Foreign Minister] Tariq 'Aziz and Nabil Qablani, PPSF Central Committee member and official in charge of the PPSF office in Baghdad.

Pro-Iraqi Arab Student, Youth 'Brigade' Formed

JN2509073490 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2020 GMT 24 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Sep (INA)—Twenty Arab student and youth organizations have decided to form an Arab student and youth brigade to fight alongside Iraq if it is exposed to any Zionist-U.S. aggression.

Announcing this, Anwar Mawlud Dhiban, chairman of the Iraqi Student and Youth National Union, has said that these organizations represent the masses of students and youths in Jordan, Sudan, Somalia, Yemen, Tunisia, Palestine, Libya, Algeria, Morocco, Mauritania, and Eritrea, in addition to the Arab Union for Youth and Environment, headquartered in Khartoum.

In a statement to INA, he stressed that by making this decision, the Arab youth and student organizations have embodied their rejection and condemnation of the intervention of the United States and its allies in the Arab region, and their desecration of the sanctities of the Arabs and Muslims in Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia].

It is worth mentioning that the Iraqi Student and Youth National Union have signed with these organizations joint work programs to unify the student and youth action with the aim of bolstering the march of Arab struggle and confronting the Zionist and imperialist forces' plans against Iraq and the Arab nation.

Shamir, Peres Clash on Presence in Gaza

TA2509110990 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 25 Sep 90 p 2

[Report by Amnon Levi]

[Excerpt] Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres has suggested that Israel "not be in Gaza." Addressing yesterday's session of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, Peres defined Gaza as "cancer in Israel's heart." He added that Gaza embodies the State of Israel's collective punishment. Peres made these remarks during a debate on the murder in Gaza, at which Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir was also present. Peres further said that even Ben-Gurion believed we should not be in Gaza. He added that if the defense establishment favors localized punishment, he supports that line wholeheartedly.

Shamir reacted sharply to Peres' remarks, saying that Gaza is a part of Eretz Yisra'el, and not a cancer. "Jews live in Gaza, and more will in the future." Shamir said that the murder in Gaza was brutal and that it requires an unusual response, which will come in due time. [passage omitted]

More on Shamir Remarks

TA2409142490 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1330 GMT 24 Sep 90

[Text] If Saddam Husayn acts on his threats, Israel will know how to react, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee today. Israel is monitoring reports on the redeployment of missiles in Iraq and will act accordingly, said the prime minister. The prime minister also commented on other issues. Among other things, he said that any attack resulting in Israeli casualties will have a serious impact on all Arab nations in the region, to quote Shamir's words of warning.

As for the USSR and aliyah, Yitzhaq Shamir said that the Soviet Union has hinted that it will renew diplomatic relations with Israel in the not-too-distant future. According to the prime minister, 25,000 Soviet immigrants are expected to arrive from the Soviet Union in October alone.

Regarding the murder in Gaza, the prime minister said that the penalty for it will be extremely severe. Gaza, said the prime minister, is part of Eretz Yisra'el; being there is not a punishment, he said.

Shamir Briefs Committee

TA2409124790 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 24 Sep 90

[Report by Knesset affairs correspondent Ze'ev Kohen]

[Text] Several issues were discussed at today's meeting of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. Referring to the Soviet Union, the prime minister said that a hint at the resumption of diplomatic relations in the not-too-distant-future was received in talks Israeli Foreign Ministry officials held with their Soviet colleagues.

As to the Gulf crisis, the prime minister said: The United States is acting to prevent cracks in the international coalition that it had established with such success.

On Saddam Husayn's threat, Mr. Shamir said that Saddam is interested in involving us in the conflict, as that would help break away the Arab partners from the coalition against him. We must treat his threats against us seriously and gravely. Obviously, if he tries to carry out his threats by attacking Israel, it will mean an attack against the U.S. coalition. To sum up, any damaging attack against Israel will have a major impact on all Arab countries in the region and on the global situation.

As for the intifadah, the prime minister said: The situation has improved throughout Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. Although we still hear criticism, we must not forget that daily attacks are no longer carried out against drivers around Hebron, Ari'el, Efrat, and Ma'ale Adumim. Reports from the field show that violence has abated. Had the tragedy at the al-Burayj camp not taken place, the intifadah would not have been raised in the committee's meeting, said the prime minister. In any event, punishment meted to those responsible for the slaying of soldier Amnon Pomerantz will be very severe.

Foreign Minister Continues Contacts at UN

Confers With FRG's Genscher

TA2409183290 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 24 Sep 90

[Text] Foreign Minister David Levi thinks that Saddam Husayn has begun issuing more ominous threats against Israel. In a meeting at UN headquarters in New York, Minister Levi told his FRG counterpart that the Free World must react swiftly to prove to the Iraqi president that if he tries to make good on his threat, he will be attacked and defeated.

Our correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher agreed with the foreign minister. He also noted that in his opinion time is not working in Saddam's favor. Minister Levi asked Minister Genscher to continue to take action to avoid linking the Israeli-Palestinian conflict to the Gulf crisis.

Meets Other Counterparts

TA2509061390 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 25 Sep 90

[Text] Foreign Minister David Levi, now in New York, has urged strong international action in the wake of Saddam Husayn's latest threats linking an attack on Israel with the UN sanctions against him. Levi, attending the opening of the UN General Assembly, met last night with the foreign ministers of Germany and

Japan and with the secretary general of the world organization. From New York, Jonathan Schachter reports:

It was one theme common to Foreign Minister Levi's meetings last night with Foreign Ministers Genscher and Nakayama and Secretary General Perez de Cuellar: Israel, he said, was taking the latest threats by Saddam Husayn very seriously, seeing it as a dangerous escalation of Saddam's rhetoric. For the first time, Saddam was no longer threatening retaliation if attacked, said Levi, but rather was now predicating his action on the success of the UN embargo. In effect, he said, this was holding a gun to Israel's head as a result of the UN sanctions.

Levi reiterated his position that Israel does not want to provide Saddam with the alibi, but neither would Israel compromise its security.

Israel's UN Ambassador Yohanan Bein told Voice of Israel that Levi had a special message for the secretary general.

[Begin Bein recording] This is a very new situation in which Israel is threatened by Saddam Husayn as a direct reaction to a decision of the Security Council. And therefore, the Security Council, and the UN as such, and the free world community in general have a certain responsibility towards Israel in this regard. [end recording]

There were no specifics on how the UN would be expected to fulfill that responsibility, and Bein denied that Israel was asking the Security Council to take Israel into consideration when it meets late tonight to consider an air blockade against Iraq. According to Bein and other sources familiar with the meeting, de Cuellar agreed with Levi's assessments of the Gulf situation, demonstrating friendship and an understanding of Israel's priorities. De Cuellar reportedly told Levi in emphatic terms that he categorically rejected all attempts to link the Gulf crisis to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, saying the situation with Iraq had to be resolved first and foremost.

Levi received similar support from his West German and Japanese counterparts, who complemented Levi on Israel's restraint during the Gulf crisis and expressed support for Israel's current situation.

Minister Urges 'Collective Punishments' for Camp

TA2309120490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 23 Sep 90

[Report from the Prime Minister's Office by Jack Katzenell]

[Text] The cabinet this morning heard a detailed report from Defense Minister Arens and senior officers on the murder of the soldier at the al-Burayj refugee camp, and a number of ministers proposed the adoption of a tougher policy in the territories. Agriculture Minister Refa'el Eytan, for example, dismissed Defense Minister Arens' policy of what is called yad hakhama—literally a smart fist, or a discriminating fist—as not smart at all. Raful [Eytan's nickname] favors collective punishments. He proposed that all the houses within the radius of 100 meters of the scene of the murder be razed to the ground; 100 of the young men involved the incident should be deported; residents of the camp should be banned from traveling on the roads and from going out to their jobs.

Raful also accused Army personnel of negligence: The soldier was not properly briefed on how to reach his base, Raful said, and the sentries at the observation post overlooking the camp took much too long to realize something was happening.

Minister Ehud Olmert said any soldier trapped by an angry mob should open fire without hesitation: It is better to be lynched afterwards by the news media, Olmert said, than to be lynched at the time by a mob.

Transport Minister Moshe Qatzav said: People in Israel have got the idea that only children throw stones in the territories. At al-Burayj, it was proven that adults, too, were involved, Qatzav pointed out.

No vote was taken at today's cabinet meeting, no concrete proposals were submitted on a change of policy in the territories—not formally, at least. But Defense Minister Arens promised that the culprits would be brought to justice and punished with the full rigor of the law.

Punitive Measures Planned

TA2409120390 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 24 Sep 90

[Report by army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe]

[Text] The internal al-Burayj lane will become a security road; soon homes, stores, and other buildings will be demolished along that very narrow winding road. The reason: It presents a security risk to IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers. In addition, the houses of residents connected with the murder of the soldier, the late Amnon Pomerantz, will be demolished and sealed. Apparently, no legal problems are expected to arise in this matter, although consultations on this and other issues are under way. Brigadier General Amnon Strassnoff, the military judge advocate, is examining various aspects of the affair.

As for deportations, three or four detainees directly connected with the murder are currently being held by the IDF, although dozens were involved. Although deportation is a deterrent measure, the legal problems weigh heavily, mainly because of the possible appeals to the High Court of Justice and the delays, often protracted, they will cause. In this instance, the punishment has to be immediate and deterrent.

Defense Minister Arens has instructed the legal administration to probe ways to accelerate the deportation proceedings. Another problem to be considered: Should a murderer be deported, and thus set free, or should he be incarcerated for 20 or 30 years? This is certainly a question to be considered.

Other steps to be taken include the establishment of an additional Army encampment and another observation point in the camp area. In the words of a senior officer: The al-Burayj camp will not look the same after the murder.

In the meantime, the hunt for suspects—dozens of them—continues. A senior officer yesterday called the murder a lynching, and added: Acting within the boundaries of the law, we will mete out localized and most painful punishment to all those who stood around Amnon Pomerantz's car.

Injunction Overruled

TA2509142190 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 25 Sep 90

[Text] Approximately 30 minutes ago, the High Court of Justice overruled the interim injunction that forbade the Israel Defense Forces to demolish homes in the al-Burayj refugee camp. The court's reasoning will be published later. The announcement on this ruling has already been relayed to the defense establishment's representatives in the area, and they are expected to complete the demolition plans.

By the time the interim injunction was issued, 15 houses had already been demolished in al-Burayj near where the reserve soldier was murdered on the Jewish New Year. It seems that an additional 13 buildings will be demolished to widen the road at the site of the killing.

Our correspondent Yaron Enosh reports that the justices noted the state's announcement that all building owners had been offered summary alternative solutions and would be financially compensated.

Hamas, Fatah Sign Conciliation Agreement

TA2309124490 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 23 Sep 90 p A6

[Report by Yizhar Be'er]

[Excerpts] Representatives of the Islamic Resistance Movement [Hamas] and the Fatah organization formulated a conciliation agreement between the two groups and published a 13-clause joint communique, which meets many of Hamas' demands. The agreement regulates the relations between the organizations following a series of violent clashes which reached their peak in a mass brawl in the Tulkarm refugee camp two weeks ago, in which at least eight Palestinians were injured. There was also great tension and violent incidents between the two groups inside the prisons. The agreement stipulates that from now on disagreements will be resolved through constructive dialogue, and it was decided to establish a central committee for reconciliation as well as subcommittees. [passage omitted]

If the agreement is implemented it will have great significance for relations between the Palestinian organizations operating in the territories. It was decided within the framework of the agreement to declare mosques, worshipers, and imams inviolable. The recent incident in the Tulkarm refugee camp started after Fatah activists in Bala', in the northwestern part of the West Bank, prevented the local imam from holding his sermon. It was also agreed to protect property, and various fund-raising methods were rejected. Hamas had criticized Fatah for collecting monies for itself under the guise of intifadah funds.

The agreement stipulates that the national institutions must be preserved, and that anyone should be permitted to join them. It is unclear whether this means that Hamas can participate in the Unified National Leadership of the Uprising, which so far has been out of bounds for Hamas members. Hamas had complained that the Unified Leadership did not take them enough into account. They also ruled that each organization has a right to uninterrupted activity and decided to stop trading accusations, wrap up all unresolved problems, and turn over a new leaf without harming the basic principles of the "national idea." All efforts would be concentrated, the agreement stated, against the Zionist enemy, its interests, and against collaborators.

Among the clauses in the agreement was giving prison committee representation to Hamas activists and a decision to coordinate activities announced in leaflets (apparently this refers to strike days, and memorial anniversaries which are decided on separately by Hamas and Fatah).

The agreement permits the return of residents who were forced to leave their homes and workplaces as a result of the conflict between the two groups. One clause obligates the Islamic University in Gaza to pay employees without any discrimination based on political affiliation. The strike forces of the various organizations were exhorted to cooperate in safeguarding the lives of local residents.

'Obstacles' in Way of Accord

TA2409133990 Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic 24 Sep 90 pp 1, 11

[Text] Tunis—Fatah Central Committee member 'Abbas Zaki stated that since the agreement with Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] was signed on Friday, 21 September, hostile elements have begun placing obstacles to and preventing implementation of the agreement, which holds positive implications for our people's lives and march in these fateful and delicate circumstances.

There was a premeditated assault on Dr. Nihad al-Masri aimed at creating an adverse climate to the agreement reached between Fatah and Hamas. We condemn this act and consider it to be in the service of the foes of our people's unity. We stress the need to work jointly with Hamas to seek and punish the criminals and proceed with implementing the concluded agreement in the supreme interest of our people, while preventing the enemies from seizing any opportunity to undermine it.

Spokesman Reacts to Recent Iraqi Threats

TA2409172990 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 24 Sep 90

[Text] Political circles in Jerusalem have pointed out that Saddam Husayn has escalated the level of threats against Israel. Our political correspondent Arye Golan has been told that previously Saddam had threatened to attack Israel if it attacks Iraq first, but yesterday he came out with a new threat that Israel will be attacked if the embargo strangles his country.

Moshe Raviv, the Foreign Ministry's assistant director general for information, said that Saddam's threats are not an expression of strength; rather, they point to weakness and isolation. He expressed the fears that just as Saddam was found to be wrong in the past, he might err again in assessing Israel's capability and determination. Moshe Raviv emphasized that if Saddam tries to carry out his threats, it will be a tragic mistake. If Israel is attacked, it will not hesitate to provide the appropriate answer, said the Foreign Ministry assistant director general.

Most Jerusalem Immigrants Settle in New Areas

TA2409101190 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 24 Sep 90 p A5

[Report by Nadav Shragay and Nurit Kahana]

[Excerpt] Most of the immigrants arriving in Jerusalem reside in new neighborhoods established in areas annexed to the city in 1967. The majority have settled in Gilo (557), Ramot (541), Neve Ya'aqov (452), or in the old neighborhoods [inside the Green Line] of Qiryat Yovel and Qiryat Menahem.

Some 5,375 immigrants arrived in Jerusalem from January to July 1990, about seven percent of the total number of immigrants who arrived in Israel during the same period. Most of these immigrants (81 percent) came from the Soviet Union. The number of immigrants who arrived in the city in June and July doubled the number of those arriving in the city in the first months of 1990.

About one-quarter of the immigrants are under 18 years old, and some 40 percent are between 25 and 45 years old. About two-thirds of the 1,375 families who arrived in the city consist of two to three members. [passage omitted]

Motives Behind U.S. Arms Deal Analyzed

TA2409204490 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 2030 GMT 24 Sep 90

[Text] A senior defense establishment source said that the latest U.S.-Israeli weapons deal can hardly be called a deal, if one talks in economic terms. He believes the Americans agreed to the deal to pave the way for congressional endorsement of the Saudi arms deal, as well as their understanding that the supply of modern means to Israel has nowadays become a necessity stemming from the need to offset the supply of weapons to the Middle East. The senior source added that if Israel had to pay for the weapons it will receive through this deal with its own money, it would have been incapable of pulling this off economically. This report was filed by our correspondent Amir Fink.

IDF Could Use Stored U.S. Gear During Crises

TA2409090090 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 24 Sep 90 p A1

[Report by Re'uven Pedatzur]

[Text] An agreement on placing $100 million worth of U.S. military equipment in Israel has emerged from recent talks between the two countries. The intention is to store war materiel in Israel, which would be used by the United States in emergencies and which Israel would be allowed to use for its own needs during a war.

The Americans are reducing their troops in Europe and are looking for places to store the weapons that will be removed from NATO countries. Placing military equipment in Israel would enable the U.S. Army to rapidly outfit task forces sent to deal with local conflicts in the Middle East.

The equipment to be stored in Israel would, for the most part, consist of various types of ammunition. Its presence in Israel and the arrangement whereby the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] would be allowed to use it during emergencies would significantly ease Israel's defense burden and would reduce expenditures on ammunition for the IDF.

In fact, such a move would indirectly add $100 million to Israel's defense budget, since it would obviate the need to spend that sum in the IDF's procurement plan earmarked for ammunition.

The rationale behind the U.S. decision is the assessment that the two superpowers are not very likely to become engaged in military crises in the future, whereas local conflicts are bound to increase.

To protect their interests in such conflicts, the Americans would have to send troops from the United States to this region. The Americans do not have adequate transportation to send a few days supply of ammunition in addition to troops and weapons. Therefore, if the ammunition were stored in the area where such conflicts are expected to occur, it would be possible to equip the troops rapidly.

The impact of the latest events in the Persian Gulf on U.S. plans to store military equipment in Israel remains unclear. The U.S. airlift to Saudi Arabia and the logistical difficulties involved in the transfer of equipment to troops already stationed in the Middle East underscore the importance of storing such equipment in the area.

'Mistakes' Seen in King Husayn's Gulf Policy

JN2409143590 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1435 GMT 23 Sep 90

["Observation" by 'Ezra Shirazi]

[Text] Over the past years and decades, particularly in the wake of the bloody Black September [1970] events in his Kingdom, King Husayn, and this is the truth, has displayed unique skill and wisdom in sitting on the fence and playing a double game at one time, and maneuvering among various trends in the Arab arena in particular and in the international arena at another. Since the beginning of last August, King Husayn has been trying to play this same game and policy with regard to the Gulf crisis. King Husayn, however, has made two mistakes this time. He has basically and primarily made a mistake in his attempt to play a double game concerning the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, which was based on treachery, ingratitude, arrogance, and terrorism, and which the international community has denounced unanimously and in a manner unprecedented since the establishment of the United Nations.

King Husayn's second mistake clearly lies in his assessment, or his belief, that he can forever continue sitting on the fence and playing a double game in every case and every crisis. The signs of the consequences King Husayn will reap as a result of his double mistake have come in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's decision at the end of last week to stop supplying Jordan with oil and its expulsion of 20 Jordanian diplomats from Riyadh. This Saudi decision is undoubtedly a clear indication that the Gulf crisis is passing through a decisive turning point that will separate good from evil, and a turning point after which one can no longer pursue a fence-sitting policy, maneuvering, or playing a double game. It is true that some observers believe that the punitive measures taken by Saudi Arabia against Jordan will force King Husayn closer to Saddam Husayn's Iraq. Other observers, however, believe that for King Husayn to throw himself completely into Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's arms would mean pushing Jordan toward the same inevitable fate awaiting Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and his dictatorship.

U.S. Urged To Back King

TA2409133090 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 24 Sep 90 p B1

[Editorial: "Jordan and the Israeli Aspect"]

[Text] King Husayn's remarks and appearance in a CNN interview—excerpts of which were broadcast on Israeli television last Saturday night—combined to illustrate what a man in serious distress sounds and looks like. The interview was addressed to the U.S. public, and was in equal parts a justification and a cry for help. Whether he knew about the blow Saudi Arabia—an ally and patron in pre-Saddam Husayn days—had in store for him when it turned off the pipeline, or whether his denial was false albeit intentional, makes no difference. What matters is that Husayn and his kingdom have sunk deeper in the mud and may soon hit rock bottom.

If the Jordanian kingdom and monarch come to an end, Israel's security will be seriously affected. Even the smart asses who used to say that Jordan is Palestine have meanwhile realized that under the rule of the Hashemite dynasty Jordan's existence constitutes a security asset to Israel because it serves as a buffer between Israel and demented Iraq. Clearly, if Jordan does not get oil from Saudi Arabia, it will have no choice but to ask Iraq to fill the void. Such a request, if heeded by Iraq, would turn King Husayn into the perfunctory ruler of an Iraqi satellite, as simple as that. Whether he likes it or not, he will be forced to toe the line of the Baghdad leader. At least potentially, this will expand the actual area governed by Saddam Husayn to the Jordan River.

According to the statements of high-level Israelis, such a state of affairs would represent a "casus belli." Whether one downplays the weight of such declarations or takes them literally, it is obvious that Israel will not be able to remain indifferent in the face of further Jordanian-Iraqi rapprochement. By the same token, since irreversible facts have not yet been established, it is clear that the time has not yet come to beat the drums of war.

Saudi Arabia did not proceed wisely when it pushed Jordan into Saddam Husayn's corner. The United States, Saudi Arabia's de facto protector, will not be able to justify a sit-and-do-nothing attitude by arguing that it is a dispute between two sovereign states. As leader of the coalition of which Saudi Arabia is a member, Washington must make it unequivocally clear to Riyadh that this is not the time to settle private scores between the House of Sa'ud and the House of Hashem.

Israel has an interest in having Jordan get out—even if by the skin of its teeth—of the mess it was caught in when it sided with Iraq. Even if one does not believe King Husayn—and there is no reason to believe him—that he was and remains neutral in the conflict between Iraq and the rest of the world, his lack of credibility cannot change the strategic reality stemming from the proximity between his country and Israel. This fact justifies Israel's interest in seeing him out of his distress.

Hopefully, Washington will not shrug off this Israeli wish even if it is not the government that is voicing it due to the need to keep a lower profile.

Cooperation With Jordan on Monitoring Air Traffic

TA2509095590 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 25 Sep 90 p A2

[Report by Zohar Blumenkrantz]

[Text] Jordan and Israel have begun cooperating in monitoring the skies in the south due to the increased air traffic in the area resulting from the Persian Gulf crisis.

The air control tower in Elat has already relayed relevant information to the tower in al-'Aqabah in order to guarantee safe civilian air traffic in the region. The airports of both countries are a short distance apart, and information is transmitted from Israel directly over the control tower radio, in response to requests from the Jordanian side.

The intense aerial activity inside the limited airspace between Israel and Jordan has forced Elat airport air controllers to be even more attentive in implementing air safety regulations in the area, where the two airports are in close proximity.

The data being transmitted directly to Jordan mainly deal with anticipated plane movements that may be dangerous in the confined airspace.

The level of understanding and communication between the Jordanian and Israeli air control towers was described as excellent.

Soviets Propose Arms Control Talks

TA2309101090 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 23 Sep 90 p 1

[Report by diplomatic correspondent David Makovsky]

[Text] The Soviets, concerned over proliferation of weapons in the Middle East, have for the first time formally approached Israel about proposed arms control talks.

The feelers were put out 10 days ago during a visit to Moscow by a senior Foreign Ministry delegation, officials said last night. "The Soviets tell us that they are worried about the quantities of the weapons in the region, and arms control is the best way to halt the current trend," said Yosef Govrin, Foreign Ministry deputy director general for Eastern Europe, who headed the four member delegation to Moscow.

However, the prospects for the success of any Soviet initiative remain murky, as Arab countries—with the exception of Egypt—have been unwilling so far to respond favorably to the idea of regional arms control.

The Moscow talks, the first between senior diplomats of the two countries since the Soviets severed ties in 1967, were a preparatory meeting for Foreign Minister David Levi's encounter with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze this week at the UN.

The Soviets suggested that conventional arms control talks could be preceded by the establishment of a "regional control center for reducing tensions" as a confidence-building first step between Israelis and Arabs. This center could prevent accidents that could arise from misreading military maneuvers, the Soviets said.

Govrin told his Soviet interlocutors that Israel would study the proposal. Israeli officials believe the Soviet proposals are the brainchild of Dr. Sergey Rogov, a former Soviet official who works at the government-backed USA Institute and who spoke about arms control during a visit to Jerusalem early this summer. The Soviet delegation in Moscow was led by Vasiliy Kolotusha, the head of the Middle East division of the Soviet Foreign Ministry.

The new trend of Soviet concern over Middle East arms control was already discernible in February 1989, when Shevardnadze gave a speech on this topic in Cairo after meeting with then-foreign minister Moshe Arens.

Foreign Ministry Official on Ties With Soviets

TA2309082490 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 23 Sep 90

[Telephone interview with Yosef Govrin, Foreign Ministry deputy director general for East Europe, by Ya'el Dan and Mikha Friedman—live]

[Text] [Dan] Good morning, Yosef Govrin, Foreign Ministry deputy director general for East Europe.

[Govrin] Good morning.

[Dan] After your preparatory talks in the Soviet Union, what makes you feel optimistic regarding the chances for a resumption of relations?

[Govrin] Our talks focused on more than the resumption of relations; they dealt also with the peace process and the situation in the Gulf. We should remember that the meeting between the foreign ministers [Levi and Shevardnadze] is taking place against the backdrop of two or three significant events which denote the difference between this meeting and past meetings.

The first factor is the very considerable development of bilateral ties between our two countries in the spheres of culture, science, and economy. This also includes the political dialogue. The second thing is the Gulf crisis, in which the Soviet Union has endorsed many U.S. positions and has, in fact, shared in the UN decisions to impose an embargo on Iraq, and so forth. The third development is the internal changes in the Soviet Union itself.

[Friedman] This is the background, but what we would like to discuss is the political front. We understand that David Levi's big and significant mission in his current trip to the United States will be attempting to strike the traditional Soviet condition off the agenda: the resumption of full diplomatic ties in return for Israeli consent to an international conference. What are the chances of attaining this goal?

[Govrin] It is difficult to gauge the chances. In our talks, we repeatedly stressed our stance that establishing relations between countries should not be contingent on anything, and that normalizing ties between the countries serves both sides' interests. I do not know how events will unfold in the future, but in view of the amazing changes in Soviet domestic and foreign policies, the question of why the USSR has not yet resumed ties with Israel remains open.

[Friedman] What is your answer?

[Govrin] We were told that relations would probably be restored soon, but in our talks, we received no Soviet commitment to resume relations with Israel.

[Dan] Perhaps there will be more flexibility on Israel's part? We have heard a report that Israel may agree to some form of encounter in some kind of an international conference.

[Govrin] Personally, I do not believe Israel will pay any sort of political price for the resumption of diplomatic relations.

[Friedman] While we are discussing the resumption of diplomatic relations, which may occur soon, we hear that direct Moscow-Lod flights may be launched in the near future. But here, too, the Soviets are giving something away very grudgingly, as only tourists and businessmen, and not immigrants, will be able to take advantage of this direct air link. Why are the Soviets so miserly where Israel is concerned?

[Govrin] Well, it appears there are political considerations which are considered even over financial ones, although they have repeatedly stressed their desire to separate political considerations from the economic. The question is not the resumption of flights, because the Soviet and Israeli airlines signed an agreement last December. The Soviets had made the implementation of this agreement conditional on Israel's abstaining from settling Soviet immigrants in the territories, but this issue is no longer on the agenda. The fact that there are no direct flights has caused serious financial losses, as well as damage from the humanitarian point of view: People leaving the USSR for Israel are being endlessly shuffled from place to place. We have pointed out these problems to our Soviet interlocutors, and I hope they will make an affirmative resolution in this respect.

[Friedman] Still, only tourists and businessmen will be allowed to fly this line—not immigrants.

[Govrin] Yes, yes, but the line does not operate yet despite an agreement signed on this issue. We have repeatedly stated this point, and I hope the Soviet leaders will consider the economic as well as the humanitarian factors.

[Dan] Mr. Govrin, although East European issues are your sphere, you are a deputy director general of the Foreign Ministry. As such, we would like to ask you about Minister David Levi's meeting with James Baker, who expects Minister Levi to raise new ideas. Also, in one of his Rosh Hashana interviews, Prime Minister Shamir hinted at a possible new Israeli initiative. Is there anything like that? Are there any new ideas around?

[Govrin] I am unable to reply to this question simply because this is not my usual sphere of activity.

[Friedman] I will then pose a question which does lie within your sphere: When David Levi returned from Brussels, he related having learned from a very authorized source that the Soviets will come to Israel's rescue if it is attacked by Iraq. This declaration was met with, I would say, great skepticism on the part of various people here, including the prime minister, who referred to the issue. What do you know about this? Will they or will they not come to our rescue if we are attacked by Iraq?

[Govrin] I know that the Soviets told us and the others that they very vehemently condemn Saddam's threats against countries in our region. This may certainly imply that the Soviet Union will no longer support or side with Iraqi positions, although it did so in the past.

[Dan] Does this mean that Minister Levi's report was an interpretation?

[Govrin] The interpretation as presented in the press seems to have been imprecise as far as the minister's remarks are concerned. But I do not know what the original remarks were.

[Dan] We thank you very much, Deputy Director General Yosef Govrin.

[Govrin] You are welcome.

Moda'i Urges 'Parallel' Treatment With Egypt

TA2509091290 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 25 Sep 90 p 12

[Report by Eric Rozenman]

[Text] Washington—Finance Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i, in meetings with U.S. officials this week, will insist on "parallel" treatment with Egypt on the question of military debts, he told Israeli reporters yesterday.

Moda'i did not say he would request that Israel's $4.5 billion debt to the U.S. government be written off—President George Bush has asked that Congress write off Egypt's $6.7b. debt—but only that Israel and Egypt be treated similarly.

The finance minister said he regarded as "Kafkaesque" the Bush administration's continued desire for assurances that the $400 million loan Israel is seeking for housing Soviet immigrants not free other funds for use in the administered territories.

Moda'i, who recently met with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, said it was difficult to understand why Israel's "new friends" accepted Jerusalem's pledge that Soviet Jewish immigrants were not being settled in the territories, while Israel's "old friends" in the U.S. did not.

He told reporters that Gorbachev had revealed that Egyptian President Husni Mubarak had asked him why he permitted the large Soviet Jewish influx to Israel to continue. Gorbachev told Moda'i that Mubarak had insisted that the Jews were settling in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Gorbachev, according to Moda'i, told the Egyptian leader that the Soviet Union had investigated and was satisfied that the Jews were not settling in the territories.

Although in the U.S. for a meeting of the International Monetary Fund, Moda'i said he does not plan to talk dollars and cents with administration officials or members of Congress. Instead, he said, he was going to explain Israel's economic situation, including problems caused by the increased military readiness to meet Iraqi threats, the need to spend more to match the U.S.-backed Saudi arms buildup and the absorption of Soviet Jewish immigrants.

Egyptian Envoy on Chances for Peace

TA2509113190 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 25 Sep 90 p A3

[ITIM report]

[Text] Egyptian Ambassador to Israel Muhammad Basyuni declared yesterday that only an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait could resolve the Gulf crisis. He does not believe the embargo and economic sanctions will force Iraq to back down.

Basyuni, speaking at the monthly meeting of the British Commonwealth Association in Israel, held at Wizo House in Tel Aviv, said: "Even everyone in the Arab world has agreed that Iraq must withdraw from Kuwait. The path of embargoes and sanctions does not lead anywhere and will not solve the problem. Any compromise—leaving Iraq two Kuwaiti islands and a few oil fields, a solution that would allow Iraq to maintain its prestige and image as hero—must include withdrawal. War will also necessarily effect such a withdrawal."

The Egyptian ambassador added that he is confident that Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, and the Palestinians are ready to conduct peace negotiations under an international umbrella. He said that al-Asad has recently expressed such willingness more than once. "The differences between the positions of the parties in the region do not pertain to their attitude or desire for peace, but only to the way to begin talks. "The moment talks begin, I am sure that peace will be achieved, just as it was achieved between Israel and Egypt," he said. [quotation marks as published]

The Egyptian ambassador refrained from commenting on the influence of the Gulf crisis on relations between Israel, Egypt and the Arab world. He pointed out, however, in general that the Gulf crisis had inevitably had a negative effect on the entire region. Despite several requests from the audience, the ambassador would not answer questions about how Egypt would react to a possible Iraqi attack against Israel.

The ambassador reiterated his country's commitment to furthering the peace process between Israel and the Arab states. He asserted that a comprehensive and permanent peace agreement would enhance Israel's security more than any amount of military power. "A separate peace is a fragile peace, and only a comprehensive peace will be strong and irrevocable." He added that the resolution of the Palestinian problem is a sine qua non for the achievement of comprehensive peace.

Basyuni said: "Israel must choose between rapid progress toward a comprehensive peace settlement through an international conference or peace in gradual stages. In the second instance Israel must answer the five Baker questions as soon as possible. Since the inception of the new government, Egypt has still not been informed of Israel's position regarding Baker's five points. Israel's position on this issue is crucial to the peace process."

The ambassador went on to say that the Camp David accords constitute a most important framework for any general settlement, together with UN Resolution 242 and the five Baker points.

Denies Limiting Palestinian Entry

TA2509100290 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 25 Sep 90 p 12

[Report by Ben Lynfield]

[Excerpt] Palestinians bound for Iraq and Kuwait via the Rafah border crossing are being barred entry by Egypt, an Israeli source said yesterday.

Egyptian Ambassador Muhammad Basyuni and sources in the Israeli Foreign Ministry, however, said they had no information on Egyptian plans to restrict the entry of Palestinians.

But Palestinian sources said that hundreds of Gazans seeking to go back to Kuwait in recent weeks after spending the summer at home were turned away by Egyptian officials at Rafah. The Gazans had returned from Kuwait via Cairo and Rafah before the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, the source said.

Gazan students seeking to resume their studies at Egyptian universities have also been denied entry to Egypt, according to Palestinian sources. [passage omitted]

Gaza Leader Al-Siftawi Quits Political Activity

TA2409100890 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 24 Sep 90 p A2

[Report by military correspondent Eytan Rabin]

[Text] As'ad al-Siftawi, the Palestinian leader in the Gaza Strip, surprisingly announced yesterday that he is quitting his political activities.

Al-Siftawi said that he would henceforth refrain from commenting on political issues and from attending meetings with foreign figures and Civil Administration officials.

Al-Siftawi is the principal of the UNRWA [UN Relief and Works Agency] school in the al-Burayj refugee camp. He decided to quit his political activities at the order of UNRWA's legal adviser. The latter told al-Siftawi that as an UNRWA employee he must remain neutral and should not engage in any political activity.

Arab sources in the Gaza Strip link al-Siftawi's move to his rivalry with Dr. Zakariyya al-Agha. Both men are identified with the PLO's mainstream and have in the past vied for the same positions.

Sources in the Gaza Strip said that PLO activists are trying to persuade al-Siftawi to change his mind and pursue his political activities despite his job with UNRWA. Many workers of UNRWA and other UN organizations in the Gaza Strip engage in both political and journalistic activities.

Al-Siftawi authored a peace plan the main components of which were at one time embraced by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and then-Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

Jerusalem Court Overrules Levinger's Acquittal

TA2309203990 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 23 Sep 90

[Text] The Jerusalem District Court today convicted Rabbi Levinger of attacking an Arab family in Hebron, trespassing, and offending a soldier. The court accepted the state attorney's appeal against Rabbi Levinger's acquittal by the magistrate's court.

Our correspondent Yaron Enosh reports that the case involves an incident which occurred in May 1988. After being told by his daughter that she had been harassed by Arab children, Rabbi Levinger broke into the home of an Arab family in Hebron and attacked the mother and one of her sons. When a soldier asked him to leave, Levinger called him a PLO agent. The magistrate's court accepted Levinger's version of events and acquitted him, but the Jerusalem District Court overruled it and accepted the state attorney's appeal. Levinger's case was returned to court for sentencing.

Saudi Expulsion of Diplomats Disputed, Discussed

Reportedly Under Negotiation

JN2209181590 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 22 Sep 90

[Randah Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Text] A senior Jordanian source has told our radio that Jordan has not been officially informed of any expulsion of Jordanian diplomats in Riyadh or Jeddah. He added that all the Jordanian diplomats are still performing their work in Saudi Arabia as usual.

An Arab diplomatic source told our radio that last Tuesday the Saudi authorities informed Jordanian Military Attache Staff Brigadier General Qublan Muhammad and 15 members of his staff that they were personae non grata and that their diplomatic immunity would be revoked as of Friday, 21 September. However, as a result of Jordanian contacts, Saudi Arabia suspended its decision and negotiations are now under way between the two countries to cancel this decision.

The Jordanian effort to calm down the situation also dominated the issue of the suspension of the flow of Saudi oil to Jordan. Some circles view the Saudi decision as a punishment for Amman's position on the Gulf crisis, because Saudi Arabia used a financial pretext to stop pumping oil and demanded that Jordan pay a bill dating back to 1985, from which King Fahd ordered that Jordan be relieved. The senior source stressed that Jordan is still optimistic that Saudi Arabia will revoke its decision.

King Says Could Be 'Made-up' Story

JN2309105090 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1018 GMT 23 Sep 90

[Text] Amman, 23 Sep (PETRA)—His Majesty King Husayn has expressed his belief that what was carried by news agencies yesterday about the deportation of 20 Jordanian diplomats from Saudi Arabia could be a made-up story.

Answering a question by CNN, his majesty said he has no knowledge about such behavior. If this really happened, I would be surprised, the king said. Besides, there are not 20 Jordanian diplomats in Saudi Arabia.

No Plans To Expel Saudis

JN2309112690 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1105 GMT 23 Sep 90

[Text] Answering a question from the correspondent of the U.S. Cable News Network—CNN—the prime minister's press secretary has said the prime minister has not received any official memorandum charging any Jordanian diplomat in the fraternal Kingdom of Saudi Arabia of espionage. He added that Jordan has no interest in this, and that he does not believe that these reports, carried by various news agencies, are serious or accurate. The prime minister's press secretary said that the Jordanian Government has no intention of expelling any Saudi diplomat from Jordan.

Nation Concerned With Cutoff of Saudi Oil

Attempts To Solve Problem

JN2309064890 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 23 Sep 90

[Randah Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Text] In a statement to reporters following the conclusion of a cabinet meeting in Amman, Jordanian Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim described the Saudi oil company decision to stop oil supplies to Jordan as a commercial issue and financial misunderstanding which will be resolved. He said attempts are currently being made to settle the dispute with the TAPLINE [Trans-Arabian Petroleum Line] Company, given that Jordan had been under the impression that it was exempted from paying the $40 million in question.

Commenting on the effect the Gulf crisis will have on Arab relations, al-Qasim said there are differences between these states but these are only differences of opinion on how to settle the crisis, indicating that the aim is the same: reaching a peaceful solution. Al-Qasim affirmed that Jordan recognizes Kuwait's legitimacy and also recognizes that Iraq has legitimate demands. He expressed the hope that a peaceful solution to the crisis will be realized because the alternative is a terrible one for the entire region and all parties concerned.

Effects of Oil Cutoff

JN2309060790 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1940 GMT 22 Sep 90

[Interview with Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Thabit al-Tahir by Jordan Television reporter Rana Najm in Amman; date not given]

[Text] [Najm] The decision taken by the Saudi TAPLINE [Trans-Arabian Petroleum Line] Company clearly breaches the contract between the Jordanian Government and the Saudi Oil Company. What are the implications of such a decision, and was the Jordanian Government expecting it?

[Al-Tahir] First of all, let me answer your second question. In fact, we were not expecting that decision, because we don't feel that we really failed to honor our commitment according to that agreement. When we were asked to pay some due amounts to the Saudi TAPLINE company, we answered and explained our point of view on that amount, which they said was due. And we made it very clear that out of that amount, 40 million barrels, according to our understanding, were just struck out because His Majesty King Fahd had ordered that Jordan would be exempted from paying that amount. As to the $6 million, representing the price of oil for last June, instructions were given to the minister of finance to remit that amount immediately. So, for that reason, we were in a surprise when we received their message advising us that due to our failure to settle that amount in full, they regretted to inform us that they had decided to stop pumping crude oil to the TAPLINE since midnight that same evening. But talking about the implications, certainly as a result of that, we are really considering seriously how to provide our requirements of crude oil to make up for the loss resulting from stoppage of the TAPLINE. One of the alternatives which we have to consider is importing certain quantities by vessels to al-'Aqabah port. But the problem is that al-'Aqabah port is not prepared to receive vessels to unload and vessels to store the crude oil there. Certainly, we can receive vessels in al-'Aqabah, but we do not have storage facilities in al-'Aqabah for crude oil. For this reason, one of the possibilities which we are considering is trying to rent tankers, big tankers where we can store the crude oil which we may import by vessels, and from those tankers oil will be unloaded into big loaders to carry them to the refinery in al-Zarqa'. No doubt, I mean the cost of renting such big tankers, as well as additional cost of handling, will add to our crude oil bill, and will make it rather much higher than it is at present.

[Najm] So, it really does have very serious effect on the Jordanian economy?

[Al-Tahir] It does without doubt.

[Najm] So, what are the alternatives that are ahead of Jordan now?

[Al-Tahir] Well, as I said, I mean we have started investigating possibilities for other possible sources of supply. But, the point is that as I said even if we find such sources at present, from where we have to buy oil at the very high world prices at present, as you know today, the price of Brent oil reached $36.9, which is a very high price, but in addition to that as I said even if we can import crude oil by vessels, the most important thing is to ensure that we can have big tankers for the storage of this crude oil at al-'Aqabah port from where we can unload it and send to the refinery in al-Zarqa'.

'Sharp Rise' in Oil Prices To Come

JN2209122590 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 22 Sep 90

[Text] Commenting on the Saudi-owned TAPLINE [Trans-Arabian Petroleum Line] company decision to cease pumping oil to Jordan, Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Thabit al-Tahir made the following statement to our correspondent Khalil al-Qaryuti. We move on to our correspondent's meeting with Mr. al-Tahir.

[Begin recording] [Al-Qaryuti] Your Excellency the Minister, what are the effects resulting of the closure of the Saudi TAPLINE pipeline for pumping oil into Jordan?

[Al-Tahir] Definitely, the effects of closing this line will result in a sharp rise in the cost of oil imported to Jordan because we will be forced to import oil by tankers via the port of al-'Aqabah. This will entail having to equip the port and rent special marine containers in which to store the oil, since currently there are no facilities for storing crude oil in the port of al-'Aqabah. This is because Jordan has depended primarily on the Saudi TAPLINE pipeline.

It is noteworthy here that Jordan cannot import all its oil needs from Iraq due to technical matters which are difficult to resolve—whether in regard to transportation, emptying the tanks, or handling of the oil by the Jordan Petroleum Refinery.

The government is currently studying the possibility of purchasing oil from any available sources to provide for Jordan's needs and compensate for the shortage resulting from the cutoff of Saudi oil via the TAPLINE pipeline to Jordan.

[Al-Qaryuti] Mr. minister, have you begun studying buying oil from other countries?

[Al-Tahir] We have started negotiations with some oil-producing sides. We will continue these contacts in the next few days, God willing.

[Al-Qaryuti] Your Excellency the Minister, is there any information regarding the exploitation of gas in al-Rishah and the effects of that on energy resources in general?

[Al-Tahir] The Natural Resources Authority recently finished drilling Well No. 20 in al-Rishah district. It became clear that this well is a good one. Its daily output is estimated at 18 million cubic meters of gas. This amount is the equivalent of about 3,000 barrels of oil per day.

A few months ago the Authority finished drilling Well No. 18 in the same region—and it was revealed that it was a well with good production, similar to that of Well No. 20.

As you know, the two gas units in al-Rishah are currently being used to generate electric power. These two units have generated approximately 12 percent of the electric power needed for the Kingdom. As a result of this new reserve, we are currently studying adding two new gas units in al-Rishah to double the amount of electric power that can be generated from gas. We will work to taking quick measures to ensure that these two units function so that we can exploit these additional amounts of gas reserves to provide additional power. [end recording]

Decision Due to Nation's 'Position'

JN2309083890 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 23 Sep 90 First Edition p 1

[By Fayruz Mubayyidin]

[Text] Engineer 'Asim Ghawshah, secretary general of the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources, has denied that there has been any rise in the price of oil which is sold to Jordanian citizens. He also expressed his belief that various alternatives would be established to replace the oil which was cut off through the TAPLINE.

In a statement to SAWT AL-SHA'B, Ghawshah said the TAPLINE decision to halt oil supplies to Jordan was not only the result of Jordan's failure to pay its financial commitments, but also because of linking this to the Gulf crisis and Jordan's position on it.

He added that this issue is currently being discussed at the highest levels so as to create alternatives to prevent any crisis in the amounts of oil exported to Jordan, pointing out that the likeliest possibility is to compensate for the shortage through Iraqi oil.

On the project of linking Jordan to the Iraqi-Saudi oil line, Eng. Ghawshah said that that project was just an idea, that it has not been implemented, and that it is not expected to be implemented as a result of the current situation.

House Statement on Situation

JN2409113990 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 24 Sep 90 pp 1, 18

["Text" of statement issued by the Follow-up and Emergency Committee of the Jordanian House of Representatives in Amman on 23 September]

[Text] The American-Western plot on the soil of the Arabian Peninsula and the Gulf has revealed the extent of the Zionist grudge against this nation as well as the determination of the United States and its allies to keep our nation divided and wealth looted so that Israel can remain the first dominant state and so that they can govern the world through their control of the Arab oil, the nations' lifeline.

The members of the House of Representatives discussed this dangerous situation whose seriousness is aggravated by the position adopted by some Arab and Islamic governments, headed by Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and Syria which sent their armies to work side by side with the invading forces as a cover for occupation and a revival of plans which the Arab people thought were buried for good, such as Camp David, and filling the vacuum [the Eisenhower Doctrine]. They decided the following:

To invite the Arab countries, headed by the nine countries which rejected the decision to invite the Americans to occupy the land of the Arabian Peninsula, to a conference aimed at confronting the occupation of our lands and holy places and adopting an Arab solution to the Gulf crisis away from foreign intervention.

To appeal to Arab parliaments to respond favorably to the call for an urgent extraordinary meeting of the Arab Parliamentary Union, and to appeal to popular and official Arab and Islamic figures to muster their energies against the danger of occupation and the new crusader and Zionist hegemony.

The Jordanian House of Representatives draws attention to the relationship between developments in the Gulf on the one hand, and the Palestine question, Jewish immigration, and Israeli occupation of the land of Palestine, Golan, and Lebanon on the other. This is a close relationship that cannot be concealed by the masks donned by the Israeli policy on clear American and British orders.

The Jordanian House of Representatives views cutting off the Saudi oil supplies to Jordan under the current circumstances as cutting off energy to the Jordanian people and the Jordanian Arab Army, which is confronting the gravest danger posed to the Arabs, namely, the Israeli aggression, which would certainly come once the order is given by the command of the foreign armies now present on Arab soil.

It praises the principled stand adopted by the Islamic Republic of Iran toward the occupation of the Arabian Peninsula and Islamic holy places and its declaration of jihad as a way to liberate the land and expel and defeat the invaders.

The House of Representatives condemns the Atlantic and Zionist American plan to set up a military security alliance led by the United States with the participation of some Arab regimes—an alliance whose features began to emerge, restoring to our Arab region some form of subservience represented by the policy of the infamous alliances such as the Baghdad Pact and Eisenhower Doctrine.

The House draws attention to the danger of this alliance by which the United States seeks to consolidate its seizure of Arab lands, Arab and Islamic holy places, and Arab wealth.

While condemning these colonialist attempts, the House calls on all sons of the Arab people and Islamic nation to stand up in one line against them in order to nip them in the bud so that sovereignty over the Arab and Islamic land and wealth will be kept for the sons of this nation.

Columnist on 'Malicious' Measures

JN2409092190 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 24 Sep 90 First Edition p 8

["An Issue and an Opinion" column by Salamah 'Ukur: "The Saudis Are Working Against Themselves"]

[Text] We in Jordan did not know that a difference in opinion is a offense for which the Saudi law would punish us?!

We did not know that Jordan's rejection of the crusaders' encampment in the Arabian Peninsula and the desecration of its Islamic holy places by the enemies of Arabism and Islam is a capital offense for which the Saudi law would punish us!!

We did not know that our refusal to remain silent over the colonialist "Atlantic" American-British invasion of the Peninsula and the Arabian Gulf—an invasion aimed at dealing a blow to Iraq, violating its territory, and humiliating its genuine Arab people—is a capital offense for which the Saudi law would punish us!

We did not know that the large role Jordan played and continues to play and the strenuous efforts it is exerting in both the Arab and international arenas to contain the Gulf crisis and resolve it peacefully within the Arab family, avert a destructive war, and ward off tragedies and catastrophes that would afflict our Arab people in the Peninsula before others, is a capital offense for which the Saudi law would punish us.

Saudi Arabia has violated the contract concluded between Jordan and the TAPLINE [Trans-Arabian Pipeline] and we remained silent and exercised self-restraint in the hope that matters will be reconsidered, calculations reassessed, and the wrong measure rectified. But we were amazed that Saudi Arabia was unhesitatingly and willfully determined to block every chance of understanding with Jordan.

Saudi Arabia has unjustifiably expelled Jordanian diplomats in violation of Arab norms and traditions, bonds of brotherhood, and international laws, as if it were determined to sever the few remaining strings linking it to Arabism and Islam after seeking the support of the crusader invaders and attempting to invoke world enmity of Iraq and the Arab nation.

Jordan has not antagonized Saudi Arabia nor has it instigated anyone to antagonize it. Jordan has not revealed papers and facts it knows about Saudi Arabia. It has always sought to avoid straining relations with it within the framework of its pan-Arab policy and pioneering role in healing the Arab rift and rectifying inter-Arab relations for the sake of standing in one Arab trench against the enemies of the Arabs.

Nevertheless, it seems that Saudi Arabia is determined to turn its back on the Arab nation and sever its remaining brittle and weak relations with it, and open all doors of the region for the enemies after the doors of the Arabian Peninsula have been opened for them.

Despite all the burdens it is shouldering and despite all pressures, economic straits, and siege, Jordan will continue to hold out and adhere to its principled pan-Arab position which is based on supporting its brothers in Iraq. As for the malicious Saudi measures, these will inflict harm only on their owners, for the Saudis, it is clear, are working against themselves.

King Cables National Day Greetings to Fahd

JN2209163690 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 22 Sep 90

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn today cabled congratulations to King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, on Saudi Arabia's national day. The following is the cable's text:

Custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia—Riyadh, may God protect him:

It gives me pleasure to take the opportunity of the anniversary of the sisterly Kingdom of Saudi Arabia'a national day, to send to you on my behalf and on behalf of the people and Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan the warmest, heartfelt congratulations and the sincerest brotherly feelings, accompanied by prayers to the almightly God that the occasion returns while you enjoy the best of health, and the brotherly Saudi people continued progress and prosperity, and that He gives us success and guides us toward what holds good for our two brotherly peoples and the interests of the Arab and Islamic nations.

[Signed] Your brother, Husayn.

Fire in Saudi Airlines Office Extinguished

JN2409115290 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 24 Sep 90 p 15

[Text] Amman—A fire broke out in the Saudi Airlines offices, which occupy the fifth floor of a building in the al-'Abdali area. The Civil Defense fire brigade extinguished the fire, whose causes were unkown. Civil Defense sources said the fire was a minor one and could have been due to negligence.

Norwegian Red Cross Contributes to Evacuees

JN2409140390 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1440 GMT 23 Sep 90

[Text] Amman, 23 Sep (PETRA)—A cargo plane loaded with foodstuffs arrived in Amman last night as a contribution from the Norwegian Red Cross for the relief of evacuees from Iraq.

Jordanian Red Crescent sources said the Norwegian Red Cross had earlier donated other quantities of foodstuffs for the same purpose.

EC, Japan Said To Refuse To Supply Foodstuffs

JN2309085090 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 23 Sep 90 First Edition p 1

[Text] Amman—SAWT AL-SHA'B—In order to make life difficult for Jordan and within the framework of a hostile campaign against it by the United States and Western states because of Jordan's pan-Arab stand toward Iraq, several European and Western states have refused to supply any foodstuffs to the country.

Supply sources told SAWT AL-SHA'B that these states justify their stand by saying that Jordan's strategic reserves are enough to last for six months, as the [Supply] Ministry announced recently. The sources said among these states are the EC nations and Japan, which say that Jordan neither needs nor deserves any food assistance.

These sources pointed out that given the current circumstances and the existence of refugees and expatriates in Jordan, halting assistance will lead to a sharp deterioration in the food conditions, adding that such stands contradict humanitarian stands and calls by humanitarian groups and organizations for extending assistance to developing countries.

Trucks Face Problems in Gulf, Businesses Closed

*JN2409104590 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
24 Sep 90 p 22*

[Text] Trucks and refrigerated vehicles passing through the Gulf and Turkish territories have been subject to numerous crises and obstacles since the beginning of the Gulf crisis. No reasons have been given, as if an undeclared embargo has been imposed on Jordan's huge fleet of 1,500 refrigerated trucks. This fleet has become generally paralyzed as a result of the unexpected and unreasonable measures that are being imposed on vehicles while passing through transit points or while carrying Jordanian vegetables to the Arab Gulf and Europe.

Haykal al-Miflih, general manager of the Union of Jordanian Refrigerated Truck Owners Company, has explained that the chances of vehicles leaving Jordan for the Arab Gulf states are slim because of the decision of the Saudi Embassy in Amman to refrain from giving entry visas to drivers until further notice. This means that Jordanian commodities ferried by land to the Gulf states through Saudi Arabia will not leave until further notice. Consequently, this will result in huge economic losses for the owners of commodities as well as for vehicle and truck owners and their families.

But what about the trucks and refrigerated vehicles returning to Jordan from the Arab Gulf states?

Mr. al-Miflih affirmed to AL-RA'Y that he has been informed formally that there are about 12 empty trucks being held in Bahrain. He said that although all the required official procedures have been completed, the decision to allow them to leave has been lagging for several days, without explanation.

Mr. al-Miflih added: In the al-Sila' area, a border area between the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia belonging to the United Arab Emirates, there are 40-50 trucks carrying furniture belonging to Jordanian expatriates returning to Jordan, in addition to a shipment of sacks belonging to a Jordanian merchant. On the pretext that they may belong to Iraq, these trucks have been in the al-Sila' border area for over 10 days waiting for permission to leave, although all the required procedures and customs papers and statements have been completed.

On the other hand, a Jordanian businessman in Saudi Arabia told AL-RA'Y by telephone that competent Saudi authorities have asked a number of Jordanian businessmen to liquidate their businesses within a period not exceeding three months. Also, no reasons have been given.

It seems that the measures and obstacles facing Jordanians in a number of fraternal Arab countries for no apparent reason need an explanation and convincing reasons need to be given.

Export Official Explains Embargo Effects

*JN1709170990 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic
1430 GMT 16 Sep 90*

[Text] Amman, 16 Sep (PETRA)—Jordanian exporters have ruled out the possibility of finding alternative markets to the Iraqi market in terms of the volume of trade and the absorptive capacity for Jordanian industries and fair dealings, emphasizing the scale of the resultant damage.

According to an official of the Jordanian Exporters Society [JES], certain Jordanian industries rely on the Iraqi market for the sale of 80 percent of their goods. Should this state of affairs continue, a large number of laborers in this sector will have to be made redundant, the official added.

He called the UN Security Council resolutions voting an embargo of Iraq a devastating blow to the Jordanian economy in general and Jordanian industries in particular. The official noted that approximately 50 percent of Jordanian products are exported to Iraq, with Jordan's exports to Iraq and Kuwait over the past year totaling approximately $280 million.

He said that certain Jordanian industries are experiencing various kinds of inconveniences, especially after some ships carrying imported raw materials were refused entry into the port of al-'Aqabah and headed for other neighboring ports to unload their cargos. This has led to delayed deliveries and increased transportation costs. The source said the Jordanian economy stands to suffer other losses in the transport sector, given the reliance of the Iraqi economy for part of its imports and exports on the port of al'-Aqabah.

To improve the situation for Jordanian industries, the source proposed that the competent authorities institute such measures as waiving or freezing bank interest rates on credit facilities for industries exporting to the Iraqi market. He also suggested that substitute or new markets be found and use be made of the preferential treatment agreement between Jordan and the EC countries. Further, he proposed that cooperation protocols be concluded with Libya and Algeria and that Jordan's Central Bank intervene with Jordanian banks to discount Iraq's accounts and to ask the countries supporting the boycott of Iraq to purchase Jordanian products that were previously sold to the Iraqi market.

It is to be recalled that the most prominent Jordanian industries exported to the Iraqi market, particulary by the member firms of the Society, were pharmaceuticals for human and animal use, paint, agricultural and electrical equipment, fertilizer, furniture, baby carriages, ladders, gas stoves, heaters, faucets, chemicals, and carpeting.

'Politics' Cited in World Bank Talks

JN2409105790 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 24 Sep 90 p 1

[By staff reporter P.V. Vivekanand]

[Text] Amman—A top-level Jordanian economic team is now in Washington for talks with World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) officials on efforts to address the imbalances in the Kingdom's economy, particularly the effects of the Gulf crisis and international sanctions against Iraq, but politics rather than pure economy is expected to determine the outcome of the discussions, according to analysts and diplomats.

"Jordan will not find it easy sailing in Washington," commented a senior Asian diplomat working as an economic advisor to the United Nations. "First of all, the background to the discussions will be set by the Western powers—the big contributors to the World Bank—which would try to pressure Jordan into imposing a total isolation of Iraq and this is an area in which both sides will have to be careful about how they play their cards," noted the diplomat, insisting on anonymity.

"Technically speaking, Jordan has a very strong case to present to the World Bank, especially in light of the positive economic progress it had achieved prior to the Aug. 2 explosion in the Gulf," he said referring to Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. "Under normal circumstances, there should not be any problem whatsoever in Jordan getting most of what it would like to get from the World Bank, having already established that it is capable of adapting to new circumstances and adjusting itself. But, as one can clearly see, it is not a normal case anymore."

"I'd expect every effort by the big powers to secure a definite Jordanian commitment and action to further the Western-inspired campaign to isolate Iraq before the World Bank moves to help the Kingdom," he said. "How Jordan will play its cards, particularly in view of its track record of total commitment to the United Nations Charter and resolutions, will determine the outcome."

"One of the factors in favour of Jordan is its status as a key link in the blockade of Iraq," he noted. "To many in the West it is a weak link and this could play a major role in the Washington discussions."

Presenting a six-month assessment of the Kingdom's economic performance and the progress it has made to alleviate its economic problems, Basel Jardanah, the finance minister, said last month that there were several highly positive indications that Jordan had taken the first few steps towards eventual economic recovery. The dinar was steady supported by $650 million in foreign exchange reserves, expatriate remittances were expected to reach $800 million in 1990 (compared with $640 million in 1989), certain sectors were showing definite growth after being stagnant for two years, and exports were expected to rise while imports were declining. The minister also expressed confidence that Jordan would be able to secure the London Club's agreement for Jordan to buy back part of its commercial debts, estimated at about $1.3 billion of the total $8.4 billion.

However, in his first formal comments on the state of the Jordanian economy after the Iraqi takeover of Kuwait, Jardanah said last week that the Gulf crisis had totally changed the economic picture in Jordan and debt rescheduling or debt refinancing was not suitable under the present circumstances and that the Kingdom would be seeking debt reduction. Jordan does not qualify for debt write-offs since its per capita income exceeds the maximum of $800 set under the Toronto protocal, which provides for debt relief for developing countries.

The Jordanian team, headed by Planning Minister Khalid Amin 'Abdallah and including Jardanah and Industry and Trade Minister Ziyad Fariz, arrived in Washington late Friday. Formal talks were expected to begin Monday, officials said.

Part of the talks will be conducted within the annual meeting of the World Bank and the IMF which begins this week and the team will follow up the discussions in bilateral talks with the various governments involved, a senior Jordanian officials said. Jordan is a member of the governing council of the World Bank.

"Jordan will present a detailed picture of its economic situation, how its carefully chartered steps towards recovery were totally undermined by the developments in the Gulf and how much it actually lost and stands to lose as a result of the regional crisis," the official said. "The focus of a proposal that the team will submit to the World Bank will be debt relief," added the official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

"Needless to say, Jordan has been following its (economic) restructuring agreement (of April 1989) with the IMF and if it was not for the Gulf crisis it would have moved ahead with no major problems in managing its foreign debts and bringing about a better balance in its exports and imports," the official added.

One element of the IMF-agreed programme is a gradual phasing out of government subsidies with a view to ensuring that the allocations benefit the most needy. First moves towards this goal have already been taken in the form of rationing of subsidised rice, sugar and powdered milk. The government has also floated the prices of red meat, after channelling part of the subsidies to the livestock sector. These are seen by analysts as strengthening Jordan's case before the World Bank.

King Receives Letter From Italian President

JN2209194190 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 22 Sep 90

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received a letter today from the Italian President inviting Jordan to attend the Arab-European dialogue conference scheduled in Venice next month. The letter was handed over by Mr. (?Farazlo

Watandlandaro), secretary general of the Italian Presidency, when he called on his majesty at the Royal Hashemite Court. The meeting was attended by his excellency the chief of the Royal Court and his majesty's political adviser.

Islamic Delegation Leaves for Iraq 22 Sep

JN2209193890 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1415 GMT 22 Sep 90

[Text] Amman, 22 Sep (PETRA)—The popular Islamic delegation formed at the world Islamic meeting held recently in Amman left for Baghdad today to see His Excellency President Saddam Husayn of Iraq.

The delegation had visited Saudi Arabia and conferred with the custodian of the two holy mosques and a number of Saudi officials and ulema and Kuwaiti nationals.

The delegation is to complete its mission by visiting Tehran for talks with Iranian leaders.

The tour is part of the world Islamic movements' effort to explore ways to defuse the Gulf crisis and find an Arab-Islamic-based solution.

Led by Muhammad 'Abd-al-Rahman Khalifah, the controller general of the Muslim brotherhood in Jordan, the delegation also comprises delegates from Islamic movements in Pakistan, Malaysia, Tunisia, Algeria, Syria, Sudan, Turkey, Egypt, Palestine, and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], in addition to Jordan.

Crown Prince Hasan Leaves for New York

JN2309135190 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 23 Sep 90

[Text] His Highness Crown Prince Hasan left Amman at noon today for New York on a working visit of several days to the United States of America during which he will meet with UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

His highness was seen off at the airport by His Highness Prince Faysal Bin-Husayn, the prime minister, the chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, his majesty the king's political adviser, and the chief chamberlain. He was also seen off by the chief of staff, the director of the Public Security Department, senior military and civilian officials, and the U.S. ambassador in Amman.

Habash Thanks Nation for Hospitality, Departs

JN2409174190 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 24 Sep 90 p 15

[Text] Amman-AL-DUSTUR—Dr. George Habash, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, has left Amman after a 10-day visit at the invitation of the Jordanian Arab National Democratic Alliance.

Dr. Habash participated in the Arab Popular Forces Conference and delivered a speech during the first session. He also met with representatives of popular and political organizations.

Dr. Habash expressed in a news statement prior to departure his great appreciation for the hospitality he received during the visit. He praised highly the great role Jordan is playing to support Iraq in confronting the U.S. invasion of the Arabian Peninsula and the Gulf.

Dr. Habash saluted the Jordanian Arab masses and expressed his appreciation for their readiness to struggle to confront the Zionist, imperialist, and American threats, their determination to confront aggression, and permanent support for the valiant intifadah in the occupied territories.

Government in 'Total Harmony' on 'Awn's Removal

PM2409161790 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 21 Sep 90 pp 22-23

[Interview with Defense Minister Albert Mansur by Thurayya 'Asi in Beirut; date unspecified]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] There are reports about the peaceful march toward al-Yarzah. Does this have something to do with a prior agreement with General 'Awn? And what do you mean by it?

Mansur: There is no agreement with Michel 'Awn. There are numerous and tireless contacts with many officers and leaders in east Beirut. There are numerous means other than the gun. This is what we mean by the peaceful march.

AL-HAWADITH: What about military deployments?

Mansur: The one who mobilizes forces is not necessarily the one who opens fire, except when necessary and under a complete plan. It is known that anyone who wants peace prepares well for war.

AL-HAWADITH: Is there full understanding between the U.S. Administration and the Syrian leadership on the need to settle the situation in Lebanon?

Mansur: I believe that there is an international, Arab, and Syrian decision to back the legitimate government and its decisions. And this is sufficient agreement for the legitimate authority to work to recover its positions, especially since there is a conviction that it is now impossible to start any economic or social remedy before the political issue and the political situation are resolved. The only hope for salvation is the implementation of the al-Ta'if agreements. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: If the Army is forced to seek help from Syrian forces to settle the situation in east Beirut, would that mean that the obstacles which prevented these forces' entry to settle the situation in the eastern areas in the past have been removed?

Mansur: First, the Syrian forces' help for the Lebanese Army does not necessarily mean the Syrian Army's entry into the eastern area. Second, if the situation does require these forces' entry into the eastern area, there is in my view nothing to prevent that, now that the Syrian presence has been politically accepted by all the parties without exception, including General Michel 'Awn, who was a master in pleading for Syrian sympathy to the extent that he at one point thought that borders between Syria and Lebanon should be abolished. Besides, Syria's political relations with all parties today are good. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: How do you explain his holiness the pope's statement about linking the situation in Lebanon to the dangers of what has happened in Kuwait? Is the Vatican still an obstacle in the way of removing 'Awn?

Mansur: I believe that his holiness the pope's statement is positive in that regard. It expresses small states' fear of being dominated by large ones. But I do not believe his concern about us in particular is appropriate, because with regard to the Israeli enemy there is Lebanese, international, and Arab consensus supporting Lebanon. As for our Syrian friends, they condemned Iraq's action against Kuwait; thus their position is exactly similar to that of his holiness the pope. His holiness' fear for Lebanon is principled, in my view.

AL-HAWADITH: Are there still differences between the Army command and the Defense Ministry on the one hand and the president of the republic on the other, specifically with regard to the method which should be applied to remove 'Awn?

Mansur: I can confirm that the positions of the political authority and the military command are identical, and there is no contradiction between them. The political authority means the Council of Ministers represented by the defense minister. So there is no room for any talk of differences. But this does not mean that there are no debates and discussions inside the Council of Ministers. In fact there are sometimes differences over ways of handling matters. But the decision is one. Once a decision is issued there is no room for differences. I can confirm that there is total harmony between the defense minister and the Army command and between the defense minister and the Council of Ministers.

AL-HAWADITH: What stage has been reached with regard to the implementation of the Army's plan to enter Iqlim al-Tuffah?

Mansur: There are negotiations sponsored by Syria between Amal and Hizballah, and there are positive signs. As for the Army, the force is ready to make a move pending the political agreement. [passage omitted]

Ministers Say Solution Imminent

NC2409192290 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1845 GMT 24 Sep 90

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi's meeting with Ministers Dallul, Mansur, and al-Khazin ended this evening with the assertion that the decision to end General 'Awn's rebellion will be implemented through escalated measures that will be announced in due course. Minister Muhsin Dallul explained that implementation is proceeding the way legitimacy and the people wish. He ridiculed Gen. 'Awn's remarks about a solution next year. He said: We are not working according to predictions but are actually doing things, and you will see the results of our work soon.

Minister Albert Mansur said: Of course, the people are worried and do not believe that a solution will take place very soon. But they will find out in the coming days that they have no reason to doubt. He affirmed that the decision to resolve the situation has been made. But as to how and when, you will see it on the ground from day to day. He hoped that a solution will be reached as soon as possible and with minimum cost to everyone.

Explosions Reported in 'Awn-Controlled Areas

NC2409172490 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 24 Sep 90

[Text] According to reports from the areas under the control of General 'Awn, an explosion took place last night at the al- Mukafahah battalion headquarters in al-Hazimiyah, near the Pepsi Cola Company, causing heavy damage. A big explosion took place before that on the Antilyas-al-Mutaylib road at 2147 yesterday.

On the night of 19 and 20 September, a strong explosion reverberated in the operations building in the al-Mukafahah command headquarters. The losses could not be determined because of the security cordon thrown around the scene. People who escaped unhurt from the explosion said, however, that the surprise and the shock were so great that all army personnel were stunned and slow in getting to the scene of the explosion where bodies, shattered glass, and burned cars could be seen everywhere.

Amal Accuses Hizballah of Water Cut, Shelling

NC2409114790 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 24 Sep 90

[Text] The Amal Movement information bureau in the south has issued a statement accusing Hizballah of depriving well over 400,000 people of water.

In its statement, the Amal bureau also accused Hizballah of bombarding the villages of Sarba, Kafr Tibnit, and Kafr Matta with 120-mm mortars. Three people were injured and a number of houses damaged as a result of the shelling. The statement affirmed that the movement is unilaterally abiding by the cease-fire agreement.

Three Reported Killed

NC2409144490 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 24 Sep 90

[Text] An official military source of the Amal Movement in the south has stated that three citizens were killed and others were wounded when the villages of Humin al-Fawqa, Sarba, Kafr Hatta, and 'Arab Salim came under fire at 1300 this afternoon. The source added that the shelling reached areas far from the combat lines at 1400 when Grad 122-mm shells fell in al-Zahrani township, wounding one citizen and damaging several houses.

Security Source on Killing of Prisoners

NC2409154490 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 24 Sep 90

[Text] A security source has stated the following: Some media have reported a serious security incident which took place on the road to Rumiyah prison. According to the media report, an armed ambush was waiting for an internal security forces truck that was transporting prisoners. Four detainees held by the security forces were killed.

Security sources have expressed surprise at the way the incident was reported, noting that the detainees involved are soldiers under the charge of the army police, that their transportation is the responsibility of this police, and that entrusting the security forces with carrying out such a task raises suspicion.

The sources added that they are investigating the media report to determine the ramifications of the case and to adopt appropriate legal measures.

Taylor's Liberian Front Releases 150 Nationals

NC2209142590 (Clandestine) Voice of the People in Arabic to Lebanon 1030 GMT 22 Sep 90

[Text] The Charles Taylor front in Liberia has released the 150 Lebanese nationals it had earlier detained east of the capital Monrovia. Lebanon's Ambassador in Freetown Fawzi Fawwaz said Taylor's men stormed the Lebanese Embassy in Monrovia last Monday [17 September] and arrested 30 Lebanese nationals, after having pillaged the embassy and burned embassy cars, and took them to a place where 120 other Lebanese were being held.

Ambassador Fawwaz added that Taylor's followers later released all the Lebanese, who then drove their cars to Abidjan. He noted that Prince Johnson's group is still holding an unspecified number of Lebanese.

In another development, seven Lebanese, who had fled Liberia to Freetown, are expected in Beirut this Friday [28 September].

Afghanistan

Further on RSFSR Deputies Delegation Visit

Holds News Conference

LD2409072690 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0534 GMT 24 Sep 90

[Text] Kabul, Sept, 23, BAKHTAR—The delegation of the Afghanistan Veterans Associations composed of members of the parliament of the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic which is arrived recently in Kabul for an official and friendly visit, participated at a press conference held at the Hall of Peace, Solidarity and Friendship Organisation of Afghanistan (PSFOA) today. The BAKHTAR correspondent reported that during the conference while B.N. Pastukhov, USSR ambassador to Kabul was present, the delegation responded to the questions raised by the journalists in relation to the aim, composition, plans and programmes of [words indistinct]

Responding to a question, head of the delegation said that the aim of its visit to the Republic of Afghanistan (RA) was to establish contacts in economic and cultural cooperation fields between the Association of Afghanistan Veterans and the concerned Afghan institutions. The delegation considered results of its visit to RA as very useful and effective.

The aim of the creation of its association is to assist war crippleds in Afghanistan. So far, we have established two hospitals, two crippled centres and Associations of the Mothers of the Soviets sons who have been in Afghanistan as well as 130 representatives in the USSR.

Local and foreign journalists took part in the conference.

According to another report the said delegation headed by Aleksandr Katinov met with the representatives of the national traders, industrialists and private entrepreneurs during the day.

Fixation of grounds for the identification, establishing and development of the joint trade-industrial projects and joint bank were discussed during the meeting.

Also, the delegation met with the leadership of the PSFOA in the hall of that organisation. A protocol of cooperation between the sides was concluded.

On the PSFOA side the protocol was signed by Ahmad Shah Surkhabi, vice chairman of the organisation and on the Soviet side by A. Kotinov, head of the delegation. B.N. Pastukhov, ambassador of the Soviet Union was also present during the signing ceremony of the protocol.

The delegation of the Moscow peoples representatives visited the Aviciena and Wazir Akbar Khan Hospitals today. Also, the delegation accompanied by Mohammad Anwar Dost minister of light industries and foodstuffs visited the Kabul central silo today.

At the end of the visit, a member of the Soviet delegation spoke on the mutual relations existing between the two countries and promised assistance of Moscow to Kabul.

Meets Najibullah

LD2409173490 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 24 Sep 90

[Text] Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, met yesterday with the delegation of the union of the veterans of Afghanistan comprising deputies of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic parliament at the presidential Headquarters. During this meeting, at which Boris Nikolayovich Pastukhov, ambassador and plenipotentiary extraordinary of the Soviet Union in Kabul, was also present, talks were held on topics of mutual interest, particularly regarding expansion of cooperation between the two countries' parliaments. At the end of the meeting esteemed Najibullah presented medals and decorations of the Republic of Afghanistan to the members of the visiting delegation.

Najibullah, Castro Exchange Messages on Relations

LD2509080190 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0525 GMT 25 Sep 90

[Text] Kabul, Sept. 24 BAKHTAR—Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan [RA], has sent a congratulatory message addressed to Fidel Castro first secretary of the Cuban Communist Party and chairman of the Council of Ministers and state of the Republic of Cuba on the occasion of the 15th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Republic of Afghanistan and the Republic of Cuba to Havana, today.

The message while expressing best felicitations on the occasion expresses the hope that the friendly relations and mutual cooperation existed between the RA and Cuba will be further developed and strengthened in the interests of the peoples of the two countries.

Likewise, President Najibullah, received a congratulatory message from Fidel Castro Ruz Cuban leader on the same occasion.

The message while presenting heartfelt regards wished the success of people of Afghanistan in defending national sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of the RA.

The existed high level relations between the two countries which are in the interest of the two countries peoples, will further develop, the message says. Also congratulatory messages were exchanged between the foreign affairs ministers of the two countries on the same occasion.

Ministry Protests Pakistani Airspace Violation

LD2509073590 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0447 GMT 25 Sep 90

[Text] Kabul, Sep. 23, BAKHTAR—The Information and Publication Office of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs reports that the charge d'affaires of the Embassy of Pakistan in Kabul was summoned today to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the protest of the RA [Republic of Afghanistan] Government was lodged to him as follows:

The Afghan authorities inform you that the two Pakistani helicopters intruded into the airspace of the RA and after a 4-minute reconnaissance flight has abandoned the area via Kanda Khan and returned to the soil of Pakistan.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the RA lodged a severe protest to Pakistan for such aggressive action of the air force of that country over the air space of the RA, which is a flagrant violation of international relations and principles and that of the Geneva agreements.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the RA demands that such aggressions must be avoided in the future. Certainly, in case of repitition its grave consequences will rest with the Government of Pakistan.

Correction to Najibullah Addresses Party Cadres

LD2109201890

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Najibullah Addresses Army Party Cadres," published in the 21 Sep Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT, page 44.

Column one, first full paragraph, first sentence, make read: ...I think that today, when almost 20 months have elapsed since the withdrawal of the limited Soviet contingent, the whole world says—you can hear too, that the Westerners, your yesterday's opponents, have accepted your bravery and heroism—that hope has been created that they [the Armed Forces] are able to defend their country themselves, not by leaning on someone else's shoulders. This has been the biggest national and patriotic honour for you. [passage indistinct] I think we were not going in the wrong direction, but in a proud direction. Of course it had risks, there was damage and casualties, there is unhappiness. But when we all joined together on the very first day, did we not decide that we would all sacrifice our lives in this direction? No one knows and no one can guarantee that he or she will live eternally. You knew even before the revolution that if someone revealed anything of the activities of those who were working among the Army, no one's life would be spared. They all were ready for sacrifice. Therefore, how could they not trust a powerful and strong force, ready for sacrifice anywhere in order to hoist its proud national banner among the nations again? We should eliminate such mistrust.

They said: They cannot do anything. They cannot carry out even one operation without Soviet troops. They cannot protect even one inch of their land. They will not last in power even for a few days. They have accused us of great dishonor.

At the moment, you have several gains. One is a result of independently defending the country and the withdrawal of the Soviet limited contingent. You have defended the country and defended its freedom and independence. You did not allow your country to be swallowed up by the foreigners. The 5,000-year history of your country was to be a country whose identity is historically unclear. [sentence indistinct]

Yes, comrades, it...(supplying additional passage)

Bangladesh

Envoy in Kuwait, Diplomats in Iraq Get Visas

BK2509074290 Hong Kong AFP in English
0705 GMT 25 Sep 90

[Text] Dhaka, Sept 25 (AFP)—Iraq Tuesday issued exit visas to the Bangladesh ambassador in Kuwait and four other diplomats stranded in Baghdad for 10 days amid hectic diplomatic maneuverings and threats from Dhaka of retaliation, steps, diplomatic sources here said.

Ambassador K. M. Shihabuddin and his colleagues, who had been waiting for the visas since they left their posts in Iraqi-occupied Kuwait September 16, would soon fly out to Jordan on their way home, the sources added.

They refused to give immediate details.

Baghdad had apparently ignored Dhaka's repeated requests to let the diplomats leave Iraq, and a Foreign Office spokesman Monday warned that Bangladesh could take retaliatory steps if the situation continued.

Diplomatic sources here believed that Iraq's tough stand on the issue was to express its annoyance at Bangladesh's decision not to shut its embassy in Kuwait by the deadline Baghdad had given, and also its backing of Saudi Arabia by sending a token military contingent to the multinational force there .

Mr. Shihabuddin left his post in the invaded emirate after authorities here said that they were being withdrawn "as it is no longer possible for them to carry out their legitimate function" in the face of Iraqi pressure, and the mission's operations were temporarily suspended.

On Thursday [20 September], Iraq issued exit visas to non-diplomatic staff and families of Bangladesh diplomats, who have already reached Dhaka.

President Ershad Leaves for UAE 22 Sep

BK2209131890 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 22 Sep 90

[Excerpt] President Ershad left Dhaka Saturday on a two-day state visit to the United Arab Emirates [UAE] at the invitation of President Shaykh Zayid Bin Sultan Al-Nuhayyan. The president is expected to hold talks with the UAE president on several issues. The Gulf crisis will, however, dominate the discussions between the two leaders. Foreign Minister Anisul Islam Mahmud accompanied the president. [passage omitted]

Ershad Returns From UAE Visit

BK2309171990 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 23 Sep 90

[Text] President Ershad is back home at the end of his two-day state visit to the United Arab Emirates [UAE]. At the formal talks, President Ershad and the UAE president, Shaykh Zayid Bin Sultan Al Nuhayyan, emphasized exploring all possible ways and means to resolve the Gulf crisis peacefully. The talks lasted for about 75 minutes. President Ershad apprised Shaykh Zayid of the process of ongoing consultations among Asian Muslim countries to find out a possible way to persuade Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait and restore the legitimate government there under the leadership of Shaykh Jabir. Shaykh Zayid endorsed that (?position).

Prior to his departure from Abu Dhabi, President Ershad told a news conference that six non-Arab Asian Muslim countries—Bangladesh, Malaysia, Indonesia, Brunei, Maldives, and Pakistan—are working on a peace plan to persuade Iraq to vacate Kuwait paving the way for restoration of the legitiminate government in Kuwait.

The president was given a hearty send-off when he left Abu Dhabi this morning.

Commentary Hails Outcome of Ershad's UAE Visit

BK2409145290 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1540 GMT 23 Sep 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] President Ershad's two-day state visit to the United Arab Emirates [UAE] has been a significant one for many obvious reasons. It has brought the two countries closer, reinforcing further the stronger bilateral relations between Bangladesh and the UAE.

Against the backdrop of the Gulf crisis, the visit has once again reflected the close identity of views of the two countries on the vital questions of security and stability in the region. Bangladesh's clear and positive stand on the Gulf crisis has meanwhile demonstrated the consistent policy goals of its foreign policy which has won wider international acclamation and reinvigorated our friendship and understanding with the countries in the Gulf who are opposed to aggression.

During his two-day visit, President Ershad has had talks with the UAE amir, Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, on bilateral views. Bangladesh has excellent relations with the UAE and our bilateral friendship and understanding have reached newer heights over the years. Bound together by strong religious and cultural ties, the two countries have come closer through growing trade and development cooperation. The UAE has been one of our valuable development partners. A large number of Bangladeshis are working in the UAE and have been contributing their best to the development efforts in the Emirates. Bangladesh buys most of its oil from the UAE. The two countries hold identical views on various regional and international issues.

It has been logical that the Gulf crisis has been the dominant issue at the discussions between the two sides. The discussions have clearly reflected the complete identical views of Bangladesh and the UAE on the situation in the Gulf following Iraq's invasion and annexation of Kuwait. The warmth with which the Bangladesh president and the members of his entourage were received in Abu Dhabi is a clear pointer to the close and deep friendship between the two countries. President Ershad has formally inaugurated a Bangladeshi school in Abu Dhabi during his visit to the UAE.

On President Ershad's part, this has been his second visit to the Gulf and Middle East region following Iraq's invasion and annexation of Kuwait. His earlier four-day visit to Turkey and Saudi Arabia has been a positive breakthrough in solving the [word indistinct] and repatriation problems of Bangladeshis stranded in the Turkish and Jordanian camps. President Ershad was the first head of state to visit the stranded people, including Bangladeshis, who have been victims of cruel Iraqi aggression. He had shown solidarity with them in their hour of need.

Bangladesh's stand on the Gulf crisis has been appreciated well both in Turkey and Saudi Arabia. Dhaka's decision to dispatch a military contingent to protect the holy shrines in Saudi Arabia and its principled position on the issue of Iraqi invasion and annexation of Kuwait have thus been widely acclaimed. President Ershad also demonstrated his bold leadership by meeting the amir of Kuwait, Shaykh al-Jabir al-Sabah, now in exile in Tai'f in Saudi Arabia following the Iraqi aggression.

Viewed in this context, President Ershad's visit to the UAE has been a very significant and momentous one. Bangladesh has thus once again expressed its full solidarity with the Gulf countries who are opposed to Iraq's aggressive and annexationist policies in the region.

President Ershad Leaves 25 Sep for U.S. Visit

BK2509043190 Hong Kong AFP in English 0413 GMT 25 Sep 90

[Text] Dhaka, Sept 25 (AFP)—Bangladesh President Hussain Mohammed Ershad left here Tuesday for New

York to attend a world summit on children and for a possible meeting with U.S. President George Bush, Dhaka Radio reported.

It said that during his near two-week visit to the United States the president will be accompanied by First Lady Begum Raushan Ershad, Foreign Minister Anisul Islam Mahmud and senior officials.

Officials earlier said Mr. Ershad is due to address the two-day U.N.-sponsored summit on children beginning in New York on September 30 which is expected to include some 70 heads of state including Mr. Bush.

Mr. Ershad is expected to meet Mr. Bush during the summit and discuss economic issues affecting third world countries, including Bangladesh, due to the Gulf crisis, they said.

The president's other major engagment in New York will be a key-note speech on Bangladesh foreign policy at the on-going 45th session of the United Nations General Assembly on September 27.

Before returning home on October 8, Mr. Ershad is expected to visit the city of Denver, Colorado, the official BSS news agency said, but gave no details.

43,500 Nationals Evacuated From Gulf Since 22 Aug

BK2309150590 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 23 Sep 90

[Text] About 43,500 stranded Bangladeshi nationals have returned home in one month through repatriation flights from the Middle East. Briefing newsmen in Dhaka Sunday afternoon, a Foreign Office spokesman said a total of 154 flights were operated since the 22d of last month to bring back these Bangladeshis from Kuwait and Iraq. Of them, 3,884 were evacuated from Saudi Arabia, 11,700 from Turkey, and the rest from Jordan.

India

Violent Agitation Against Reservation Continues

BK2209161790 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 22 Sep 90

[Text] Haryana witnessed violence and arson today. According to an official spokesman, the Army was called in Kurukshetra following the setting ablaze of a number of government offices by the agitators. The demonstrators opposing the Mandal Commission report [reserving jobs for backward classes] was carrying a body of a youth who, according to police, committed suicide last night. However, agencies report that it was a case of self-immolation. Reports of arson and violence have also come in from Rohtak, Fatehabad, Hissar, and Narayangarh. In Fatehabad, some agitators hijacked three vehicles, one of which met with an accident resulting in death of one of the hijackers.

In Bihar, the bundh [strike] call given by anti-reservationists evoked mixed response in the state capital. About 100 pro and anti-reservationists have been arrested in different parts of the state. In the capital, road traffic was blocked at several points, the south Delhi area being the worst affected. According to the police, some incidents of stone throwing were reported. Students continued to block road traffic at the Ring Road at the Safdarjang Hospital crossing since yesterday. The Delhi University remained closed today and the students unions have urged the government to open a dialogue on the Mandal Commission report. They also demanded a judicial inquiry into the self-immolation bid by [student] Rajiv Goswamy on Wednesday last [19 september]. Rail traffic was also disrupted at Bridge Wasan near Delhi for about 3 hours.

Further on Agitation, 'Suicide'

BK2309095890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 23 Sep 90

[Text] In Haryana, a 48-hour curfew has been clamped in Kurukshetra this morning as a precautionary measure in the wake of large-scale violence by antireservationists, following the death of a student yesterday. The state government denied reports last night that the student had committed self-immolation in protest against the Mandal Commission [on reservation of jobs for backward classes] recommendations. An official spokesman said in New Delhi yesterday that the youth, Sushil Kumar, had committed suicide by consuming poision.

In Chandigarh, the curfew imposed since Friday night following violence by antireservationists was relaxed for three hours between 0500 and 0800 this morning. The curfew relaxation period passed off peacefully.

The condition of Rajiv Goswami, the student who tried to immolate himself on Wednesday last, is stated to be critical but stable. The head of the department of burns, Dr. J.L. Shrivastav, of the Safdarjang Hospital in New Delhi told our correspondent that Mr. Goswami is comfortable and was given some liquid food. He said the vital signs of Mr. Goswami are stable by supportive therapy.

The antireservationists today continued to block the road traffic on several points in south and north Delhi. However, the Delhi Transport Corporation buses are running normally without touching some of the areas where students are blocking the traffic. In Madhya Pradesh, indefinite curfew was clamped this morning in seven police station areas at Gwalior in view of a bundh [strike] call given by antireservation agitators. Meanwhile, the condition of the youth, who tried to immolate himself yesterday is reported to be stable.

Senior Janata Dal Leader Shot

BK2409032390 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 24 Sep 90

[Text] In Haryana, the senior Janata Dal leader and former chief minister Mr. Banarsi Das Gupta was shot and seriously injured when he was addressing a public function in Biwani Town last night. The director-general of police of Haryana, Mr. R. R. Singh, told our Chandigarh correspondent that Mr. Gupta has been admitted to the Rothar Medical College and is reported to be out of danger. The assailant was immediately overpowered and handed over to the police. Mr. Gupta was the Haryana chief minister twice, once in 1975 when he succeeded Mr. Bansi Lal during the emergency, and later when Mr. Om Prakash Chautala resigned in the wake of large scale violence and alleged rigging in mayhem by-elections this year.

Continued Disturbances Reported

BK2409132590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 24 Sep 90

[Text] In Haryana, irate antireservation agitators manhandled the state cooperative minister, Mr. Dhirpal Singh, and the former union agriculture minister, Mr. Bhajan Lal, in Rohtak today. Our Rohtak correspondent reports that thousands of students gheraoed [surrounded] both the leaders and burned their cars when they arrived at Rohtak Medical College Hospital to visit the former state chief minister, Mr. Banarsi Das Gupta.

Meanwhile, the condition of Mr. Banarsi Das Gupta, who was shot at and seriously injured at Bhiwani last night, is reported to be stable but not out of danger. The curfew clamped in Kurukshetra Town yesterday is continuing and no untoward incident has been reported so far. The prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, in a message has expressed his profound shock at the cowardly attack on Mr. B.D. Gupta.

In the capital, antireservationists continued their stir today also and disrupted traffic at several places with South Delhi being the worst affected. AIR [All India Radio] correspondent who went round some major areas reports that traffic on many roads was blocked by deflating or damaging DTC [Delhi Transport Corporation] buses at road intersections. The agitators held protest demonstrations before the Reserve Bank of India building at Parliament Street and the party offices of the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] and the Janata Dal. Police lobbed nearly 20 tear gas shells and arrested about 90 students. According to police, one youth, S.S. Chauhan, tried to immolate himself this afternoon. He was rushed immediately to the Safdarjang Hospital. Dr. Srivasta, head of the burns department, described the condition of the youth as critical.

In Chandigarh, the four-hour relaxation in the curfew this morning passed off peacefully. The government offices opened during this period. However, the attendance was thin. The curfew has also been relaxed for two hours from 1630 this afternoon.

In Jammu and Kashmir, hartal [general strike] was observed today in Kathua and processions were taken out in different parts of Jammu to protest against the implementation of the Mandal Commission

Army Called Out in Haryana

BK2409164590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 24 Sep 90

[Excerpt] Reports of more violence have come in from various parts of the country in protest against the implementation of the Mandal Commission recommendations. In the capital, another youth tried to immolate himself this afternoon and was rushed to the Safdarjang Hospital with 98 percent burn injuries. The head of the burns department told our correspondent that the condition of the youth, S.S. Chauhan, is very critical. He said the condition of the student who tried to immolate himself on Wednesday [19 September] last however continues to be critical but stable. He was given some liquid diet today also.

In Haryana, the Army was called out in Sirsa and Rohtak to assist the civil administration. In Sirsa, some government offices and vehicles were burned by the agitators. A curfew has been clamped in the town. The curfew clamped in Kurukshetra Town is continuing. The antireservationists set ablaze some government offices and train bogies in Panipat, Rohtak, Hissar, and Yamuna Nagar districts. About 25 policemen, including an additional deputy commissioner, were injured in the stone throwing by the unruly mob in Panipat.

In Rohtak, the situation deteriorated when some agitators set on fire three government vehicles. The situation is reported to be tense but under control. In Chandigarh, the curfew imposed on Friday [21 September] has been extended till 2200 tomorrow. The curfew was relaxed twice in the city during the day today. In Faridabad, one person attempted self-immolation. An agency report says he received 25 to 30 percent burns.

In Uttar Pradesh, a three-seater state aircraft was set on fire at Faizabad Airport today. The state home secretary said in Lucknow today that the aircraft was burned completely and an inquiry is being conducted into the incident.

In Rajasthan, police foiled a self-immolation attempt by two students in Baran in Kota District. The students got minor injuries. According to police sources in Jaipur, antireservationists indulged in arson, brickbatting and damaged public property in Kota.

In Madhya Pradesh, the situation in the curfew-bound Gwalior City is peaceful. The curfew was relaxed twice during the day today. No untoward incident has been reported during the relaxation period. The Gwalior police superintendent told our Bhopal correspondent that the situation in the city is fully under control.

In Himachal Pradesh, students held a dharna [sit-in] at Raj Bhavan [governor's residence] in Simla today. The police removed them from the Raj Bhavan in buses. The students however hijacked the six buses and held a rally on the Mall Road. A case of hijacking has been registered against students.

In Jammu and Kashmir, hartal [general strike] was observed today in Kathua and processions were taken out in different parts of Jammu to protest against the implementation of the Mandal Commission report. Our Bombay correspondent reports that the youth who tried to immolate himself on Saturday [22 September] in Gwalior, now under treatment at Jaslok Hospital, is reported to be out of danger.

The prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, has requested the Janata Dal president, Mr. S.R. Bommai, to open a dialogue with the students agitating against the decision on the Mandal Commission report. The All India Radio correspondent understands that the communications minister, Mr. Janeshwar Mishra, is to assist Mr. Bommai in the talks.

The prime minister has clarified that the decision on reservation in central jobs will not affect recruitment to the Army and admissions to schools and colleges. The clarification was given by Mr. Vishwanath Pratap Singh while addressing largely attended meetings at Madras and Trivandrum yesterday. However, he reiterated that the government stands by its announcement of 7 August on reservation for socially and educationally backward classes. [passage omitted]

Three Killed in Punjab

BK2409100490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 24 Sep 90

[Text] Mr. B.K. Khullar, president of the Qaumi Ekta [National Unity] Committee, Punjab, and his two bodyguards were shot dead this morning at Jullundur. Some unidentified persons came in a car and opened indiscriminate fire on them. They died on the spot.

Student Seige in New Delhi Broken

BK2509052490 Hong Kong AFP in English 0432 GMT 25 Sep 90

[Excerpts] New Delhi, Sept 25 (AFP)—Hundreds of police cleared a vital intersection in the Indian capital early Tuesday [25 September] ending a six day seige by students protesting against a proposed caste-based government job quota scheme.

In a swift pre-dawn operation, about 400 police armed with long batons and hand-held fire extinguishers moved into the area of about one square kilometer (half square mile) occupied by students since Thursday [20 September], a senior police officer said.

He said there was no resistance from the large number of students who had been occupying the area outside the All India Medical Institute and the state-run Safdarjan Hospital. But about 1,000 men and women allowed themselves to be arrested as a sign of protest against the police action, the officer said.

"We were told that if we move in, students will self-immolate themselves to stop us. So we were armed with hand-held fire extinguishers in case anyone tried to burn himself," deputy commissioner of police, Asad Farooqi, said.

He said the vital intersection had been the "headquarters" of the student agitation. "We decided we have had enough," he said. [passage omitted]

In Chandigarh, government employees took advantage of a three-hour curfew relaxation to go to the rooftops of their offices and burn effigies of Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh, witnesses said.

But Mr. V.P. Singh, speaking aboard an air force aircraft over India, vowed he would not back down on the quota policy, which has sparked off the country's most widespread student protests.

Mr. V.P. Singh said Sunday he would shortly open a dialogue with the students. Earlier senior government ministers had ruled out such talks, saying there was no controversy over the August 7 scheme.

Violence Continues; Student Dies

BK2509094890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 25 Sep 90

[Text] The youth who attempted immolation in New Delhi yesterday afternoon protesting against the implementation of the Mandal Commission's recommendation [reserving jobs for backward classes] is dead. According to the acting superintendent of Safdarjang Hospital, Dr.V. Chakraborty, the youth, S.S. Chauhan, succumbed to his burn injuries this morning. Chauhan had sustained 98 percent burns in the immolation bid. The condition of the other student, Rajiv Goswamy, continues to be critical but stable. He was given some liquid diet this morning also.

In an incident of violence in Sarojininagar in south Delhi, police had to use tear gas and open fire to control an unruly mob indulging in stone-throwing. Police also said traffic in the capital was blocked at many points and a DTC [Delhi Transport Corporation] bus was burnt by the irate mob at Mayurvihar in east Delhi. Incidents of stone-throwing and deflating of bus tires have also been reported from several other areas. Buses from most depots in south Delhi were not taken out this morning. Medical services in the All India Institute of Medical Sciences were affected today with the junior and resident doctors observing a one-day token strike in support of the anti-reservation agitation in the capital. A spokesman of the institute said that emergency departments and indoor services are working. Junior doctors in the Safdarjang and Ram Manhora Lohia hospitals are also on strike. All services, including OPD [Out Patient Department], however, are working in these hospitals.

In Haryana, curfew has been imposed in Karnal town following incidents of violence by anti-reservationists. According to an official spokesman, the army has been called out to assist the civil administration. Curfew, which was clamped in Sirsa yesterday, is continuing. The situation in Hissar, Yamunanagar, Faridabad, Bhiwani, and Rohtak is tense but under control.

A near total bundh [strike] is being observed in Himachal Pradesh today in response to a call by the various anti-reservation organizations. However, no untoward incident has been reported so far.

In Karnataka, the anti-reservation agitationists set fire to a number of buses in Dharwar city. The traffic on the National Highway No. 4 was disrupted for some time. Police had to burst tear gas shells to disperse the angry mob. Prohibitory orders have been clamped in the city for three days.

Air Force To Evacuate Nationals From Al-Basrah

BK2209161490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 22 Sep 90

[Text] An Indian Air Force plane is arriving at al-Basrah tonight to evacuate 256 persons, including women and children. Our Gulf correspondent Avinash Goel reports that there will be one such flight every day from al-Basrah to Bombay for 10 days.

U.S. Navy Searches National Ships in Gulf

BK2209145690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 22 Sep 90

[Text] The Indian cargo ship "MV Vishwa Siddhi" and passenger vessels "MV Tipu Sultan" and "MV Akbar" were searched by the Americans on the high seas near (Khor Faqn) port in the United Arab Emirate. The External Affairs Ministry sources said in New Delhi today that the ships were boarded and searched by the U.S. Navy. They also checked cargo documents. "MV Vishwa Siddhi" carried a cargo of about 10,000 tons of foodstuff for the Indian nationals stranded in Kuwait and Iraq and was flagged off from the Cochin Port on the 16th of this month.

Spokesman Says Ship Searched by Dutch Navy

BK2309132190 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 23 Sep 90

[Text] The ship "Tipu Sultan" sent to ferry Indians stranded in Iraq was searched by the Dutch Navy yesterday. The Dutch party, which came in by a helicopter, checked documents and the entire vessel. They left after satisfying themselves.

A spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry told our correspondent in New Delhi this evening that "Tipu Sultan" has sent a message that there is no hindrance in the ship's routine because of the search. The vessel is due to arrive at Um Qasr in Iraq today and leave for Dubayy in the evening with the expatriate Indians. The other Indian passenger ship "M.V. Akbar" is expected to reach Um Qasr tomorrow to carry Indians to Dubayy. Both the ships have a combined capacity of carrying 2,500 people. The cargo ship "Vishwa Siddhi" carrying over 10,000 tons of food supplies has reached (Kor Fakan) port in the United Arab Emirates. It will arrive at Um Qasr port tomorrow. These ships will carry Indians from Um Qasr to Dubayy from where they will be airlifted for home.

As already reported, the Indian Air Force has started operating daily from Basra to Bombay to evacuate the repatriates. India has warned the people stranded in Iraq and Kuwait not to take the desert route, as it is not safe.

Relief Supply Vessel Reaches Iraqi Port 24 Sep

BK2409131990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 24 Sep 90

[Text] The first Indian relief supply vessel, Vishva Siddhi, reached Umm Qasr Port in Iraq this morning. The ship is carrying about 10,000 tons of food supplies for the stranded Indians in Kuwait and Iraq. The ship, which left Cochin on the 16th of this month, is also carrying a red cross medical team.

Gujral on Coming Sri Lanka Visit, Crisis Burden

BK2309112090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 23 Sep 90

[Text] The external affairs minister, Mr. I.K. Gujral, has said that his proposed visit to Sri Lanka will not be confined to discussions on trade but will cover all the aspects of Indo-Sri Lankan relations. Mr. Gujral was responding to a question on the Sri Lankan minister, Mr. Ranjan Wijeratne's statement that the proposed visit will only concern the Indo-Sri Lankan Joint Commission. Briefing newsmen at a private function in Madras yesterday, Mr. Gujral said the idea regarding the economic commission has been mooted as the commission is (?inactive) for quite some time.

Referring to the Gulf crisis, Mr. Gujral said the current crisis will put a burden of $3.4 billion to India. It is mainly because of shortage of petroleum, stoppage of foreign remittances, and project profits from Iraq and Kuwait.

Iran

Further on Visit by Syrian President Al-Asad

President Comments on Relations

JN2209163290 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 22 Sep 90

[Dispatch from Tehran]

[Excerpts] Ladies and gentlemen, I salute you from Tehran, the capital of the Islamic Republic of Iran, where President Hafiz al-Asad arrived at 1300 local time today. [passage omitted]

The two presidents then went to the honor hall where the president responded to questions from Iranian media regarding his excellency's visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran. He said: We have been hoping for this visit in both Syria and Iran. We have also been talking about it for a long time. However, there was never anything prompting us to carry it out quickly because contacts between us have been continuous, as has the exchange of opinion and discussion of all topics that are of concern to us.

As you know, relations between Syria and Iran have been very close from the first day of the Islamic revolution. Therefore, it was not possible for us to do without direct meetings between officials at various levels. I wanted to make this visit because, first, I wish to meet directly with my brother President Hashemi-Rafsanjani to discuss many issues. I would definitely like to, and will be meeting with the leader of the Iranian revolution, Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i. I will also meet with Iranian officials of whom I know many, especially Foreign Minister Dr. Velayati, for example. I give him as an example because he was the major liaison between the two countries. His contacts with Syria always manifested the spirit prevalent in Iran and among the Iranian leadership.

In any case, we believe that this meeting, and every meeting between us, especially at the summit level, will undoubtedly strengthen the deep relations between the two countries. This is what we want and are working for. We will be discussing many issues during our meetings. There are bilateral relations, events in the Gulf, and developments in the international situation. Naturally, there is also a topic that is of importance to all Muslims—always placed at the top of the working agenda of the Arabs and Muslims when they meet, especially between two Muslim countries such as Syria and Iran—namely, the dispute between us and Israel, the relations of all these issues to each other, and our positions—those of Syria and Iran—regarding these various issues. Although we do know our positions, which have always been the subject of direct and indirect discussion, we still need to examine them from time to time in light of the new realities created by events, whether in the region or the world.

At any rate, we are now meeting with the dearest brothers and friends and do not feel at all alienated. I thank my brother President Hashemi-Rafsanjani for this warm welcome since the first moment of my arrival. I expect—and right from the very beginning I stress that I expect—to receive him in Damascus soon. It is true that we met previously in Damascus, but circumstances were different then. We thank God that circumstances are now better. [passage omitted].

Views Results of Talks

LD2409171190 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 24 Sep 90

[Text] During the second round of talks between Messrs. Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Hafiz al-Asad, the presidents of Iran and Syria, which was held this afternoon, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani reiterated his delight over the visit of the top-ranking Syrian delegation to Iran, and said: As we guessed, we have some common issues with you that we discussed. The issues of the region are developing very rapidly and new issues require new talks.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani expressed satisfaction with the efforts of the two countries' political and technical committee officials in the course of this visit, adding: Fortunately, there have been good results and these results can be a highly favorable basis for the further expansion and strengthening of the two countries' good relations in the future.

Addressing Syria's president, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani also said: I hope that your excellency's trip to Iran will be the beginning of new movements, and I expect that the two countries' officials in all the executive, technical, scientific, political, and cultural departments will seriously undertake greater efforts toward the expansion of cooperation.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani also stressed: In view of the two countries' extensive and high-level political cooperation, we believe that other grounds for cooperation should also be seriously prepared.

Afterward President Hafiz al-Asad of Syria expressed his pleasure at being in Iran. He addressed Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, saying: Our visit to Tehran and meeting with your excellency was full of useful thoughts and ideas.

Referring to the extensive and sincere ties between Iran and Syria during the past several years, Mr. Hafiz al-Asad said: We always feel that as time passes we find more common views with you on global and regional issues, for we live in a sensitive region which is the focal point of the world's attention. Therefore, no matter how much time we allocate to the issues of discussion we still feel there is a need for more time. Fortunately, as you mentioned, our thoughts and ideas are similar from the base and foundation; and thanks to the climate of understanding and trust between us, we have managed to reach common goals.

Expressing delight in meeting the leader of the Islamic revolution of Iran, he said: I was very fond of His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i before he accepted the status of leadership; and I am grateful to God for the fact that all the affairs are moving ahead favorably.

Mr. Hafiz al-Asad also thanked Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani for his hospitality, adding: As your excellency pointed out, there is no doubt that this visit is an important turning point in Iran-Syria relations since the victory of the Iranian Islamic revolution. We shall employ all our opportunities toward further expansion of ties and all-around cooperation with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Syria Agrees to Technical, Construction Ties

LD2309183190 Tehran IRNA in English 1610 GMT 23 Sep 90

[Text] Tehran, Sep. 23, IRNA—Iran's Vice-President for Executive Affairs Hamid Mirzadeh and Syrian Minister of Economy and Foreign Trade Muhammad Al-'Imadi reached agreements in construction and technical fields here today. During their second round of talks the two sides agreed in principle regarding mode of operation of Iranian and Syrian construction firms in the two countries.

They also came to terms on setting up a joint Irano-Syrian construction firm, to implement projects in their respective countries and elsehwere abroad. The agreements will be finalized during the third rounds of talks to be held here Monday [24 September]. Al-'Imadi is accompanying President Hafiz al-Asad on his three-day visit to Iran which began Saturday.

Commentary Links Al-Asad Visit, Iraqi Withdrawal

LD2309212990 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1648 GMT 23 Sep 90

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] Mr. Hafiz al-Asad, president of the Syrian Arab Republic, arrived in Tehran yesterday at the head of a high-ranking political-economic delegation for a three-day visit. Since the victory of the Islamic Revolution of Iran, this is the first time Mr. Hafiz al-Asad has visited our country.

Relations between Iran and Syria have been at a very high level of cooperation since the victory of the Islamic Revolution in Iran, and political circles have always spoken of it as strategic cooperation. The groundwork for that cooperation was laid after the victory of the Islamic Revolution and the changes in Iran's regional alliances in line with its new aims. [passage omitted]

Mr. Hafiz al-Asad's visit to our country is of special importance at this sensitive time when the Persian Gulf crisis has endangered the interests of the Muslim people of the region and its various countries. The region has a great need for such exchanges of view. Because of their long joint borders with Iraq, and their active diplomatic presence on the Middle Eastern stage, Iran and Syria can play an effective and major role in the withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait and in driving away foreign forces from the region.

In addition, the economic sanctions announced by the UN Security Council can only be effective with the serious and active presence and cooperation of all of Iraq's neighbors.

Another significant aspect of the Syrian president's current visit to Iran is that close cooperation between the brother countries was stressed once again at a high level, refuting the view of some foreign political circles which were of the opinion that acceptance of the 1975 [Algiers] Accord by Iraq would lead to the cooling of ties between Tehran and Damascus.

The Muslims of the world, especially the Muslim people of the region, have turned their gaze toward cooperation between the countries of the region, focusing attention on our country's fundamental role in the Persian Gulf region. They are hoping that this visit will be a step toward the resolution of the Kuwaiti crisis and the prevention of a great tragedy in the region. In addition, the Muslim and uprisen people of Palestine and Lebanon have the rightful expectation that the visit will help isolate compromising and deviant viewpoints on the Palestinian problem, and that it will once again turn the forgotten issues of the uprising of the Muslim people of Palestine and the Islamic and anti-Zionist resistance in Lebanon into the region's political priorities.

Paper Says Time Favors Baghdad in Gulf Conflict

LD2409100390 Tehran IRNA in English 0721 GMT 24 Sep 90

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 24, IRNA—An Iranian daily Monday [24 September] said that prolongation of the neither-peace-nor-war condition in the Persian Gulf region will benefit Baghdad.

The English-language daily 'KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL' argued, "the presence of the U.S. forces in Saudi Arabia...will gradually cause cultural and political problems for Riyadh and increase anti-American sentiments in the region."

Additionally, the daily's editorial continued, "everyday, Muslims around the world become increasingly incensed over the American presence in the Islamic holy lands."

It also believed, "Washington's old and unstinting support for Israel will add to the Muslims' anger against America."

"While the passage of time damages Washington's prestige, time increases Saddam Husayn's popularity among the Arab masses especially the Palestinians, Lebanese, north Africans and Yemenis."

Time has had military benefits for Baghdad too, the daily said.

It further argued that the threats by the Islamic martyrs organisation active in Saudi Arabia that all foreign forces must leave that country in three days time, fortification of defensive positions by Iraqi troops along borders with Saudi Arabia, continuation of the present situation between Iraq and the U.S. which has the largest number of troops in the region and extreme heat in Saudi Arabia's deserts will gradually demoralize American soldiers stationed in Saudi Arabia.

"In case of war, the American troops' weakened morale will have negative consequences on their combat abilities, while the weather conditions are like a winning card for the Iraqi troops," the daily concluded.

Velayati on 'Hypocrisy' of United Nations

LD2409213690 Tehran IRNA in English 2037 GMT 24 sep 90

[Text] United Nations (New York), Sep. 24, IRNA—The Iranian foreign minister in his speech to the 45th session of the General Assembly Monday [24 September], dealt with a wide range of subjects, the Persian Gulf crisis in particular, and made it clear that only regional states should safeguard regional security.

'Ali Akbar Velayati ruled out any change in the region's geography, and noting Iran's swift principled condemnation of the occupation of Kuwait by Iraq, contrasted the attitude of the world body towards the current crisis in the Persian Gulf with the Iraqi invasion of the Islamic Republic a decade ago.

He said "hours after the occupation of Kuwait" resolution was passed against Iraq under Chapter VII of the charter "demanding immediate and unconditional withdrawal" and within a span of two weeks, seven resolutions have so far been passed by the Security Council.

In contrast, he recalled, it took the Security Council "six long days" after the Iraqi aggression against Iran in September 1980, to issue a tame call for "refraining from any further use of force" without even referring to a withdrawal.

"For the next eight years," said the Iranian official "support in all its imaginable forms—political-diplomatic, military, logistical, intelligence and financial—were lavished on Iraq to even prevent the Iranian people from repelling aggression."

"It appears as though for those eight years principles such as inadmissibility of resort to force and occupation and the duty to suppress acts of aggression did not exist in the United Nations Charter," he added.

Velayati laid bare the hypocrisy of major powers especially the United States which all of a sudden seem to be concerned for the defense of the U.N. Charter.

Today, he said "the party calling on the nations in the region to resist the imperialist policies of the United States and its regional collaborators fought, in concert with the same imperialist policies, against the Islamic Republic of Iran for eight long years. And the party (U.S.), now claiming to oppose aggression and uphold principles of the Charter and decisions of the council, is exactly the very same state which along with its allies, and in total contravention of the Charter, dispatched its armada to the Persian Gulf, resorting the [as received] joint military action against the Islamic Republic of Iran, precisely in a bid to assist the aggression against Iran and save the aggressor."

Velayati deplored the manipulation of rules of international law and made it clear that "lasting peace and security in the volatile Persian Gulf region can only be provided by the countries of the region."

He said "the religious, cultural and economic bonds among the countries in the Persian Gulf provide the fundamental incentives for their solidarity and give them necessary capability for preservation of regional security, free from presence and intervention of foreign forces."

He added "it is regrettable that some countries in our region have not yet appreciated the reality that foreign force seek to further their own interests rather than that of regional countries."

Elsewhere in his speech he expressed disgust with the lack of justice in the present world set up, and threw light on the plight of the developing world.

"It appears that the age of cold war and fierce superpower rivalry has come to an end; should transition of the international system fail to embody the principle of justice, and should the concentration of resources in certain specific parts of the world not cater to the qualitative promotion of living standards and growth and development of the least developed or developing countries, I venture to conclude that a real confrontation between the oppressed and the oppressors will be but a fait accompli. Far from being a threat, this is a realistic analysis of the objective conditions of human beings who are cognizant of the causes of their plight and deprivation, and have come to realize that for the subjugated nations, there exists no other choice but to overturn an imposed situation."

The Iranian foreign minister also took up the issue of disarmament and voiced his strong opposition to the growing threats of chemical and nuclear weapons.

He noted the demise of communism and on the Afghan issue, he said, the Israelic Republic because of its close cultural, religious and geographical favours nothing short of an independent, Islamic and popular government in Afghanistan. [sentence as received]

Velayati defended the intifadah in occupied Palestine against the continued Zionist rule, and sternly denounced the settling of Jews on the West Bank.

The Islamic Republic supports the Palestine issue, he added.

The Iranian official also backed Islamic and other revolutionary forces in Lebanon, and reiterated support for the independence and territorial integrity of that country "in accordance with the will of the majority."

On the question of Kashmir, he said, the Islamic Republic was concerned over the violent trend of the past year and hoped that the government of India "through the adoption of appropriate measures and taking into account the demands of the Muslim people of Kashmir, would take fundamental steps for the settlement of the problem."

Twenty-Nine Arrested for Smuggling Food to Iraq

LD2409161290 Tehran IRNA in English 1440 GMT 24 Sep 90

[Text] Sanandaj (Kurdistan), Sep. 24, IRNA—Iran on Monday [24 September] announced the arrest of 29 people trying to smuggle some foodstuff to Iraq from this western border province. According to the provincial office of the Islamic Revolution Committee the arrested people who were identified as members of two smuggling bands were handed over to the Islamic Revolution Courthouse Sunday [23 September].

The seized foodstuff included rice, dates, raisins, tomato sauce, vegetable oil, flour, sugar and powdered milk. Iran has officially announced to the United Nations that it observes the economic sanctions of the Security Council against Iraq for the August 2 invasion of Kuwait.

*Paper on Alleged U.S. Plan To Divide OPEC

90AS0445A Tehran ABRAR in Persian 29 Aug 90 pp 1, 8

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful.

No doubt, OPEC is passing through the most crucial days of its 30-year life. Presently, the American pressure on OPEC has reached a new height—through certain member countries such as [Saudi] Arabia—to increase the oil production level in order to, ultimately, create division within this organization.

Despite the cooperation among the 10 member countries to increase production in order to make up for the loss of oil exports from Iraq and Kuwait, Iran has been exerting maximum efforts in order to neutralize this conspiracy—which, if successful, will result in a noticeable drop in oil prices.

The logic of [Saudi] Arabia and Venezuela—two major producers who favor an increase in production—is that deficient production as a result of the halt of oil exports from Iraq and Kuwait will cause turmoil in the oil market and, as a result of the steep rise in the price of oil, consumer countries will suffer dreadful blows under such circumstances. On the hand, in the long term, the possibility exists that major consumers may be tempted to look into other sources of energy and this issue may result in a new problem facing OPEC.

On the other hand, the reasoning of Iran and other countries opposing the production increase is that: Under the circumstances when America wants to avoid using its own stockpiles, pegged as Strategic Oil Reserves, and protect it from depletion and, also, other member countries of the International Energy Agency are hesitant to use up their reserves, an increase in production will inevitably result in a decrease in the price of oil, the harm of which will come only to OPEC members.

Of course, Iran accepts that in case of the severe depletion of stockpiles, within the next few months the international energy agency can decide to increase OPEC's production—if the crisis is still continuing.

America's pressure on OPEC through [Saudi] Arabia is only aimed at confronting OPEC and forcing down the price of oil to under 20 USD for each barrel.

The extraordinary meeting of OPEC oil ministers, which was in session until last night in Vienna, has been delayed by one day—by majority vote—as a result of the inability to reach an agreement.

Eleven member countries—including Kuwait whose oil minister was present at the meeting under the title of "oil minister of the government in exile"—agreed to wait for the absent oil ministers of Iraq and Libya to come to Vienna in order to discuss the increase in oil production.

With the presence of oil ministers of Iraq and Libya, naturally, the camp opposing the increase in production of oil will be strengthened. This will give rise to the possibility of OPEC's balking at the decision to increase production—which is against its interest.

However, if the OPEC conference is faced with failure in its final decision, considering the agreement among the 10 member countries, the danger exists that some countries—especially [Saudi] Arabia and Venezuela—may decide to increase their production unilaterally. So far, [Saudi] Arabia and Venezuela have announced their readiness to increase their productions by two million and 500,000 barrels respectively. As a result of such action, by moving away from the objectives of OPEC, they confront this organization with the danger of dissolution.

On the other hand, a unilateral increase in oil production will certainly cause a drop in prices in the international market. In such a situation, other OPEC member countries, which will suffer insurmountable losses, cannot remain silent toward [Saudi] Arabia.

When leaving OPEC's ministerial meeting, Iran's oil minister announced that he will not be willing to participate in the decision making process in order to increase oil production, which will deal the greatest blow against the oil exporting countries (OPEC). In any event, the presence of the oil ministers of Iraq and Libya will give rise to the possibility that the camp opposing the increase in production may influence the decision of the other 10 members.

The fact that [Saudi] Arabia is leading the conspiracy to increase production has not gone unnoticed by nations who possess oil reserves. By implementing this conspiracy, [Saudi] Arabia, which has turned the most sacred Islamic land into a base for the American forces and their allies, will not be invulnerable from the anger of [Muslim] nations.

[Saudi] Arabia seeks an increase in oil production for the interest of the West, especially America, and against the deprived nations.

Missions of New IRGC Ground Forces Identified

LD2409191990 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 24 Sep 90

[Text] The commander of the ground forces of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC] announced that the establishment of the new Guards ground forces organization, which is capable of expanding its capacity three times by using the Basij [mobilization] forces, was approved by the honorable leader [Ayatollah Khamene'i].

Talking to reporters this morning, he also told them about the new establishment and missions of the Guards ground forces. He said:

Following expert reviews on missions, and the new establishment of these forces in the General Command Staff of the Armed Forces, the formation of the new ground forces was specified. The experiences gained during the imposed war helped the setting up of the ground forces. On the basis of the decisions reached, the two major missions of the forces are identified as defense against foreign threats and invasions, and dealing with internal crises, in accordance with the orders of the country's officials.

Among the characteristics of the Guards ground forces, he mentioned their motivation derived from exalted God, belief in divine assistance, love of martyrdom, and lack of dependence on modern armaments. He expressed the hope that those characteristics would be maintained in the new formation of the forces.

The commander of the Guards ground forces, referring to the successful maneuvers of the Mohammad Rasul ol-Allah division on Tehran's eastern heights, said: The Guards ground forces and organized forces of the Basij will stage, in coming days, maneuvers in Tehran [based on] the victorious Val-Fajr-8 operations which resulted in the recapture of Khorramshahr and the crossing of the river in Khuzestan. He also said that the Guards ground forces will soon stage maneuvers in south Tehran using their armored units.

Commentary Views Confessions by 'Spies'

NC2109134590 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 2 Sep 90 p 2

[Commentary: "Crime and Punishment"]

[Text] The airing of Farhad Behbahani's confessions on television has led to various reactions inside the country and abroad.

On one hand, Western mass media are trying to distort such interviews with confessions by arrested spies and, on the other, pro-colonialist and pro-arrogance organizations are expressing concern over the condition of the arrested culprits.

But inside the country, after years and years of anticipation, the Muslim ummah of Iran have witnessed action taken by the Islamic Republic's security and law organs, and the long-standing desire of the Islamic ummah that the politically bankrupt elements of society be arrested, tried, and punished has been fulfilled. Even though this wait was long and it would have been better if the competent bodies had started to act much sooner and had prevented plots by pro-West elements, nevertheless, the very fact that a long-standing wish has been fulfilled dictates that we thank the officials for their efforts. However, some pro-Western elements and their leaders have not yet been arrested and are still continuing their futile efforts to spread lies.

The Iranian nation will not forget the confessions by the heads of the treacherous and dependent Tudeh Party about spying for the Soviet Union, committing murders, concealing arms, and forming a secret military organization. After these confessions, the vestiges of the defunct Tudeh Party abroad began to claim falsely that these confessions and revelations about the treacheries by Tudeh Party heads and their organization had been extracted through special methods and that basically these confessions were not valid because they had not been made freely. But time showed neither that the confessions had been extracted by force nor that the information members of groupings such as the Monafeqin [hypocrites, referring to the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization] gave in their confessions was wrong.

Now by resorting to the same propaganda methods, these pro-White House, politically bankrupt elements deceitfully announce that Behbahani's confessions are not valid.

However, these treacherous elements also contradicted themselves by being unable to negate all the wretched deeds of their elements. Thus, they had no other alternative but to confess that not all of the arrested people were innocent.

Is this statement not proof that these gentlemen were very skillful in their fight against the Islamic revolution and their enmity with the Islamic ummah of Iran under demagogic labels?

Does this not mean that these gentlemen were solely at the disposal of the CIA?

What do siding with the arrogant mass media's poisonous and false propaganda, the participation in the psychological war against the Islamic Republic, and the dissemination of completely false information on counterrevolutionary groups and CIA plotters mean? Do these things mean that one is innocent or a traitor and a plotter against the Islamic Republic's system?

These very comfort-seeking and politically bankrupt elements recently alleged that Iraq is now in a weak position and that the officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran should therefore alter their stand vis-a-vis Iraq.

First of all, these very gentlemen were the ones who paid repeated lip service to the need to end the war and to accept the resolution and peace with Iraq. What has happened now so that they have become more Catholic than the Pope? Does the forcing of Iraq to accept Resolution 598 and the 1975 Algiers agreement, the release of the prisoners of war, and the withdrawal of Iraqi forces to international borders speak of Iran's weakness or its strength? A just conscience is needed to answer this question, however, and we do not see this type of conscience in any of these gentlemen.

*RESALAT Report on 28 Aug Majles Session

90AS0428A Tehran RESALAT in Persian
29 Aug 90 p 5

[Text] The Majles held an open session yesterday morning presided over by Hojjat ol-Eslam Karrubi.

Following the speeches of the representatives of Abadeh, Maku, and Bu'in-e Zahra, the Majles went into session.

Below you will read the pre-agenda speeches and the details of the discussions.

Rahmatollah Khosravi, the Representative of Abadeh: How can the United States, which is an aggressor itself, come to the region to eliminate aggression?

The first pre-agenda speaker in yesterday's session of the Majles was Rahmatollah Khosravi, the representative of the people of Abadeh, who first offered condolences to the grand leader of the revolution, the Shiites of the world, and particularly the martyr-nurturing people of Iran on the anniversary of the martyrdom of the Sire of the Free, Hoseyn ebn 'Ali. Greeting the bright spirit of the imam of the people and the revered martyrs of the revolution, particularly Raja'i and Bahonar, he also congratulated the great nation of Iran on the arrival of the freed prisoners.

Offering condolences to the earthquake-stricken people of Gilan and Zanjan and praising the generous help of the people of his constituency, he referred to Iran as being located on the Alp-Himalayan earthquake belt, saying: Iran is located on the Alp-Himalayan earthquake belt, and every now and then a devastating earthquake destroys part of our country and inflicts many casualties and much damage. In order to reduce the casualties and damages resulting from these earthquakes, the concerned officials must enhance the seismology institute, concentrate the available resources and efforts to raise the needed funds to procure seismological equipment, develop the awareness of construction which takes into consideration the regulations for earthquake-resistant buildings, and provide the necessary resources to do so. Today, major problems exist in terms of construction. If solutions are not found, it is feared that in the course of the plan one of the areas most able to provide jobs, that is construction, will face problems. Even though the technical quality of buildings is especially important, there is little control or supervision over it. The urban land agency, which enjoys strong revolutionary support in terms of the urban land law, must make concerted efforts to lower the price of land, which is increasing every day. In addition, with regard to construction materials and their distribution, more care and supervision is necessary. At the present, many construction plans, even government plans, have either stopped or are not progressing rapidly enough due to shortages of construction materials. Yet, these very materials are abundantly available at high prices on the open market.

He continued: Some of the instructions or circular letters, including the self-help plan of the people in the city halls, the widening of streets from 18 to 35 meters and moving buildings back 150 meters at the main entry points of the cities, also cause disruptions in construction and affect the increase in construction prices. It appears that if steps are not taken in such cases and a revision is not made, buildings will cost more, and then you know better than anyone else how the oppressed and the government employees will suffer to procure housing.

Addressing the president and the representatives of the Majles in regard to the Persian Gulf crisis, the speaker said: The framework of the foreign policy designed by the imam and its continuation by the grand leader of the Islamic revolution is the touchstone. The unpleasant experience of Kuwait being a neighbor with Islamic Iran, with its generous support for aggression against Iran, finally brought matters to a point that the Islamic Republic should not have had to warn it and other countries to seek stability and security in the Persian Gulf region, because if stability and security are disrupted, the consequences will harm the entire region. Undoubtedly, if the Kuwaiti authorities had listened even once to the advice of our imam, today they would not have been crushed in the claws of aggression, as they have, and the Great Satan would not have found an excuse for its presence in the Persian Gulf. Now, once again, the corrupt Saudi rulers have allowed the greatest enemy of Islam and Muslims to come to Saudi Arabia to have its way with the interests of Muslims. Of course, the leaders of Saudi Arabia cannot be expected to do otherwise. They have often displayed their incompetence in regard to the two holy sites and have acted so heinously, to the point of martyring the Iranian Hajj pilgrims next to the divine sanctuary and beheading Kuwaiti Hajj pilgrims. In addition, more than 2,000 Hajj pilgrims were martyred in the Mana [as published—probably Mina] tunnel merely to prove its loyalty to the Great Satan.

The representative of Abadeh referred to the presence of the foreign forces, particularly those of the United States, and said: It is not unknown to anyone that the United States has come to the region in pursuit of its own interests. Wherever its interests are threatened, it looks for an opportunity to stain its claws with the blood of the oppressed and to show it off to others. It is not concerned about what is just and who has been wronged. One day it is the aggressor, the next day it orders aggression, and another day it supports aggression, depending on how it perceives it can best protect its own interests.

Continuing his speech, the speaker considered the U.S. military intervention into the region to be in its own interests and said: Oh Great Satan, is aggression condemned or only aggression against your interests? Did the Zionists not invade and occupy Lebanon? Was a part of our land not occupied? Why did you not provide support then, while here you act in this manner? Have you come to carry out justice in the strategic Persian Gulf region, or do you intend to plunder the Muslims? You are an aggressor yourself, how can you be expected to remove aggression? Know that this region is the stronghold of Islam and revolutionary Iran is its center! Under the leadership of the imam, the same Iranians who—you know well—kicked out your biggest bully servant, who was armed to the teeth, and established the sacred regime of the Islamic Republic, the same people who for more than 10 years prevented your bullying, bravely responded to your tricks in the form of the imposed war, the economic embargo, and thousands of other conspiratorial acts and today, more proud than ever, stand under the great leadership of the Islamic revolution, who is a student and friend of the imam, advance toward his sacred goals, which were secured with the blood of the martyrs.

In conclusion, he issued reminders to the minister of roads and transport concerning the building of the Esfahan-Shiraz railroad and the building of roads in Fars Province. In regard to continuing studies concerning the construction of a dam on the Mirir River for the irrigation of the Abadeh plain, he thanked the minister of energy. He also asked the board of directors to place on the agenda the proposal offered a year ago concerning the cancellation of the permits of the official Justice Department experts.

Bakhsh'ali Rahimnezhad, the Representative of the People of Maku: Oh America, oh Great Satan, the Middle East is no place for Satan.

Mr. Bakhsh'ali Rahimnezhad, from Maku, the second pre-agenda speaker in the open session of the Majles yesterday, first offered congratulations on the accomplishment of the red blood of the martyrs and the return of the freed prisoners. He continued: Oh America, oh Great Satan, the Middle East is no place for Satan. You must ultimately depart from the blue Persian Gulf and the sacred lands of the two holy shrines. Of course, the noble people of Iran condemn the presence of Saddam and the Ba'th Party in Kuwait, but Islamic countries must solve their own problems on their own. They must throw the premise of guardianship of the colonialist into the trash bin of history and remove it forever from the minds of Muslims.

In another part of his speech, offering congratulations on the arrival of government week and thanking the officials of the Islamic Republic, he said: Everyone must pray for the honorable government Cabinet in advancing the long-term goals of self-sufficiency and the blossoming of cultural and economic potential.

Addressing the president, the speaker said: Honorable Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, beloved and powerful president, oh memento of the imam, one who received a medal of victory from the competent hands of the grand leader of the revolution, his honor Ayatollah Khamene'i, greetings to you, and the greetings of the martyrs and their grand families to you, who were able to bring order to the country with your competence and to open bright horizons for the people who voted for you and your powerful government through sincere work and efforts.

In conclusion, Mr. Rahimnezhad enumerated the most important problems of his constituency as follows: Attending to the Bazargan custums office; the condition of the Qods Hospital in Maku; changing Bazargan Village to a district; building the Poldasht bridge; providing drinking water and eliminating the shortage of schools, technical art schools, and education centers in the city of Maku; taking steps to build the Maku city region 96-bed hospital; taking steps with regard to the Shiblu plan; and providing for the primary needs of villagers, including electricity, water, roads, schools, and health care.

'Abbas Mirza Abutalebi, the Representative of the People of Bu'in-e Zahra: Raja'i and Bahonar were the architects of education based on revolutionary values and the imam's line.

The third pre-agenda speaker in yesterday's open session of the Majles was Mr. 'Abbas Mirza Abutalebi, from Bu'in-e Zahra and Avoj.

He first greeted the pure soul of the imam and offered condolences to the leader and the Hezbollah nation on the anniversary of the martyrdom of the most pure martyrs, Raja'i and Bahonar. He called them the architects of education based on revolutionary values and the imam's line and said: Raja'i and Bahonar, with spiritual appeal, spirits immersed in teaching and protracted combative experience, who were popular among the people, were able to stop the U.S. hopes concerning the most essential human building pillar, that is, education, by attracting and nurturing the faithful and committed forces and inspiring them with experience and expertise. However, now, such is not the case.

Honoring government week and thanking Engineer Musavi for his eight years of service, he asked God for the success of the president and his government.

In continuation, the speaker referred to the prophet-like leadership of the imam in bringing the revolution to fruition, the establishment of the government and its continuation by the grand leader and the resistance of the Iranian people against the deceptions of the United States. Pointing out the recent problem in the Persian Gulf, he said: Another issue that must be pointed out is the general wish of our nation, that is, the depolarization of the presence of the criminal United States and foreigners in the region. Those who presume some interests for themselves and give themselves the right to send riffraff to the Persian Gulf and the sacred Islamic lands have no such right, and we will not accept such humiliation. For a billion Moslems, there is no shame greater than that of seeing the house of God besieged by American and Israeli soldiers and pleasure seekers. How can they sit by idly and witness the cursed Fahd treating the sacred sites in a way unprecedented in history? We demand that the Americans and foreigners leave the Persian Gulf and the region as soon as possible and that, by carrying out absolutely free and popular elections in Kuwait, the government wanted by the Moslems come to power. Of course, all these calamities which are inflicted on the Islamic countries are the result of the incompetence of the reactionary sheiks and the dependent rulers, such as the Saudi family and the al-Sabah family, who do not have the competence to rule the Islamic lands and sacred sites. God willing, the united Islamic world will sever the hands of such riffraff. We must also not unwittingly take their political divisions seriously and spread seeds for them, because our strong and serious presence will destroy them.

Concerning the reestablishment of relations between Iran and England, he said: In connection with the issue of the reestablishment of relations between Iran and England, one point should be made, to which the officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs must pay attention, which is that England must, in addition to observing the conditions determined by the Majles, stop its conspiracies and the ill will, both of which cloud relations more than ever before. For example, it must free Miqdad [as published] Kowkabi, who has only a few months left to finish his doctoral degree, and avoid creating problems for Iranian citizens in England. The representative of Bu'in-e Zahra also referred to the freedom of the brave prisoners and said: It has been proven to the unbelievers that servitude in the world does not bring victory, but divine blessing and generosity, as shown by our late leader in his submission to God with a calm and assured heart and the resistance of a nation which had pledged its love to God, has today brought the good rewards, the second magnificent welcome in Iranian history, seeing the return of our beloved ones who remained faithful in their covenant with God and who have now received a great reward for their bravery.

In conclusion, the speaker issued reminders as follows to some of the officials: He first thanked the representative of the leader and the officials in the Qazvin area for bringing help to the earthquake victims. He then thanked the honorable representatives of the Majles in regard to the ratification of the general points concerning the division of duties of the Ministries of Jihad and Agriculture.

He also asked the minister of interior to change the Bu'in-e Zahra and Abik districts and the Alvand area to cities. He also requested of the minister of energy that healthy drinking water be provided for the city of Qazvin and agricultural water for the villages of Bu'in-e Zahra.

Details of the Discussions

The only item on the agenda of the open session of the Majles yesterday was the examination of the details of the bill to separate the duties of the Ministries of Agriculture and Reconstruction Jihad, about which proposals were made by representatives. Because of time constraints, the continuation of the examination was postponed to the next open session of the Majles.

*Roghani-Zanjani Elaborates on Five-Year Plan

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[Text] Economic Service—Last week Mr. Mas'ud Roghani-Zanjani, vice president and head of the Plan and Budget Organization, met with ambassadors, charges d'affaires, and representatives of foreign countries in Iran. He discussed the salient features of the nation's economy during the past decade and explained the goals and policies of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the framework of the Five-Year Expansion Plan. In view of the importance of the subject, the full text of his talk is printed for our dear readers below.

This is a good opportunity and, in the limited time available, I will try to discuss the salient features of the nation's economy over the past 10 years, during the imposed war and afterwards, and I will summarize the weak points and the strong points. I will explain the goals and policies of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the framework of the First National Five-Year Economic, Social, and Cultural Expansion Plan to give a telling picture of the projected changes for the future of a country that has a fateful economic and geopolitical place in the Middle East.

Salient Features of the Nation's Economy in Recent Years

In the years following the triumph of the Islamic revolution, the economic growth and expansion of the Islamic Republic of Iran was held back by numerous foreign and domestic factors, chief among them the following:

1. The imposed war and its economic consequences
2. The drop in the price of oil and the reduction in the nation's foreign exchange revenue
3. The relatively rapid growth of the population and related matters

Iraq's imposed war against Iran began in mid-1980 with the military occupation of a relatively large part of south and southwestern Iran, including strategic, productive, and industrial areas, and it continued for eight years until 1988. This war, which in the view of some experts was one of the longest and most destructive wars since World War II, caused heavy direct and indirect damage to the fundamental and productive structure of the economy of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which was very vulnerable and dependent as a result of the policies prior to the victory of the Islamic revolution.

According to the latest estimates, the damages suffered from Shahrivar 1359 [23 August 1980] to Tir 1367 [22 June 1988] may be summarized as follows:

Total Losses	65,353.4 billion rials
Direct Losses	30,811.4 billion rials
Indirect Losses	34,542 billion rials

The shock caused by the rapid and unprecedented drop in crude oil prices on world markets in 1985 and its continuation in subsequent years can be considered the second limiting external factor on the efforts of the Islamic Republic of Iran to achieve the goals for economic growth and expansion after the triumph of the Islamic revolution and more importantly, to deal with the problems and restraints produced by Iraq's imposed war against Iran. The drop in world crude oil prices to $10 per barrel, or almost lower than the nominal prices of 1975 on the one hand, and on the other hand the creation of numerous external restraints and obstacles to reduce the level of Iran's oil exports to the markets of the world led to the rapid drop in Iran's foreign exchange revenues, and naturally the exacerbation of existing problems, as well as ineffectiveness in the allocation of the Islamic Republic of Iran's foreign and domestic resources. For example in 1986 Iran's foreign exchange revenues at current prices dropped to their lowest level of $5.6 billion, and the drop in the real purchasing power of these revenues, in view of world inflation and its consequences, does not need a detailed discussion.

Along with the economic problems caused by the imposed war, the drop in the price of crude oil and the reduction in the Islamic Republic of Iran's foreign exchange income as the foreign shocks to the nation's economic growth and advancement, the rapid growth in the nation's population can be seen as the primary domestic factor limiting the nation's economic growth and expansion. According to the last national census taken in 1986, the rate of population growth is 3.1 percent. This rate of growth, with a population of more than 50 million in the Islamic Republic of Iran, and the reduction in production caused by shortages of foreign exchange, the damage and destruction to most of the nation's production and fundamental capacities, have put the structure of the nation's economy on an unhealthy course.

The chief consequences of what was done in response to the above factors in the economy of the Islamic Republic of Iran may be summarized in the following indicators:

1. The reduction in the level of investment and its continuation
2. A sharp drop in the level of production and the failure to utilize existing production capacity
3. Severe budget shortfalls and sharp increases in the amount of currency in circulation in society
4. The appearance of inflationary trends and increasing ineffectiveness in the distribution system
5. Severe price fluctuations and the resultant severe malfunctions in the allocation of resources
6. Increased unemployment and the unbridled expansion of directly unproductive sectors of the economy

After the cease-fire in Iraq's imposed war, the Islamic Republic of Iran took two fateful steps to move rapidly towards comprehensive economic and social reconstruction while strengthening the nation's defensive foundation, as a definite necessity. First, it amended the Constitution to establish more effective political and social management of society and second it drew up the First National Five-Year Economic, Social, and Cultural Expansion Plan, to deal with the unhealthy direction established in the period prior to the cease-fire, to set a healthy economic course and to utilize the existing strengths of the economy. Naturally, in the course of this, it will welcome all the foreign economic and political resources that can help achieve the goals of this plan. The nation's strengths and potential for economic growth and expansion, despite the damage to the nation's industrial capacity, are such that the Islamic Republic of Iran is fully optimistic about achieving the goals of its expansion plan and the success of international acts of cooperation.

The Nation's Existing Strengths and Potential

A long list can be given of the Islamic Republic of Iran's economic, social, and geopolitical potential and active resources for rapid growth and extensive international cooperation. Only a few of them will be given below as examples:

1. The Nation's Extensive Gas and Oil Resources
The role of oil and gas as the primary substances for the process of economic growth and expansion and the procurement of the energy for life for the people of the world is hidden from no one. Without energy and fuel, the world's current economic life would quickly come to an end, and it is not without reason that for a long time the matter of energy and the national security of the Western world, under circumstances when many nations are 100 percent dependent on its importation, are inextricably connected. In 1990 international studies estimated the world's oil reserves at 1,007 billion barrels. Iran alone has 92.8 billion of this, or about 10 percent of the world's oil reserves. At the same time, with respect to gas reserves Iran is second only to the Soviet Union.

2. Production and Infrastructure Resources
The nation's investments of the past four decades in industry and the infrastructure have brought the nation extensive production capacities, and with correct planning and the creation of a suitable atmosphere for using these capacities, these can be called a potential and real resource for the nation's rapid economic growth. For example, in the nation's industrial sector in the first year of the nation's first plan, meaning 1988, only 40 percent of the nation's existing capacity was being used, and it is expected that in the course of the plan existing resources will be utilized in the best way.

3. Natural and Mining Resources
The Islamic Republic of Iran is a mining nation and has very extensive ore deposits, such as iron, lead, zinc,

copper, gold, uranium and the like, and with regard to temperature, the difference in temperature between various regions reaches as much as 30 to 40 degrees centigrade at one time. The ore deposits are abundant, and the favorable natural conditions could well pave the way for rapid and exploratory economic growth in the future of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

4. Manpower

Manpower and its quality is considered one of the fateful factors in a nation's economic growth and expansion. The structure of Iran's population, with a population of more than 50 million, 45.7 percent of which is under the age of 15, is a good resource for the unskilled and skilled manpower needed for rapid economic growth. Here it is noted that now the Islamic Republic of Iran has more than 11 million persons in elementary and secondary school, and in the area of higher education, in 1988 there were more than 400,000 students in various fields and levels of study.

5. Semi-complete and Currently Underway Investments

Among the current economic characteristics of the Islamic Republic of Iran is the nation's extensive volume of investments and semi-complete projects. With the completion of these projects and with the completion of the investments being discussed, there will be extensive production and infrastructure capacities in the country in strategic areas such as iron, steel, energy, chemical and petrochemical materials, shipping, and communications generally serving to achieve the nation's economic goals.

The potential and active resources under discussion as economic factors along with the commitment and steadfastness of the Islamic Republic of Iran to support the achievement of the goals of the nation's growth and expansion plan and the nation's hard-working cultural spirit are the non-economic factors that are not considered very much in the economic studies. They create conditions that make the Islamic Republic of Iran completely optimistic about achieving the goals of which we will speak later, and with complete self-reliance it must carry out all the necessary policies.

Islamic Republic of Iran's Quantitative Goals in Five-Year Plan

In view of the goals and policies of the First National Five-Year Economic, Social, and Cultural Expansion Plan, the quantitative goals are enormous and the directions for the various economic sectors in the First Five-Year Plan in the framework of resources and the results of this plan are as follows:

1. Gross Domestic Product

The growth in the gross domestic product at prices for the year 1367 [21 March 1988-20 March 1989] will be about 8.1 percent per year. The reason for the growth in production in the first five years is the existence of unutilized capacity, whose maximum use has been made a basic focus in the plan. It is therefore expected that by not expanding new investments in the first plan and completing the semi-complete investments which will upon completion bring new foreign exchange through expanded exports and replacing imports, likewise using existing capacities, the expected economic growth will be achieved and gross domestic product without oil in the annual plan will grow an average of 7.9 percent. In view of the rate of population growth, the annual per-person production growth is estimated at an average of about 4.9 percent.

In the framework of the economic growth expected, the annual growth of the various sectors between 1367 and 1372 [21 March 1988-20 March 1994] is expected to be 6.1 percent for agriculture, 8.7 percent for oil, 14.2 percent for industry, 19.5 percent for mining, 9.1 percent for water, electricity, and gas, 14.5 percent for construction, and 6.7 percent for services. The growth planned in the agricultural sector, in view of the demand for agricultural food products, creates the possibility that in the next 10 years the gap between supply and demand for agricultural crops will gradually be reduced. It is natural that the preparations for achieving this goal will begin with the first plan. In the growth of the industrial sector, the chief emphasis is on expanding capital and intermediate industries through the completion of semi-complete projects in the framework of the plan's priorities for the industrial sector. In this way the growth of capital industries is expected to be about 24 percent and about 20 percent for intermediate industries. Priorities for the expansion of capital and intermediate industries will go to activities that have the possibility of replacing the nation's import goods. Consequently efforts will be made, by strengthening the domestic production infrastructure, to reduce the dependence of production on foreign intermediate substances and goods. Growth in the mining sector has been set with a view to making maximum use of the nation's mining capacity to expand non-petroleum exports and to create a logical relationship with activities in the industrial sector. The growth achieved in the oil sector will take place because of making the necessary investments to increase oil export resources as well as to increase the production of oil by-products. The goals for the water, electricity, and gas sector have been set with a view to the need for this sector to grow proportionately with the other economic sectors, especially agriculture and industry, as well as to meet the nation's consumer needs.

2. Investment

The investment resources needed for the Five-Year Plan to achieve its enormous quantitative goals are estimated at about 62,452 billion rials at 1367 [88-89] prices. The growth in investments at the fixed price will be an average of 11.6 percent.

The percentage of gross domestic product taken up by total capital investment, which sharply dropped in recent years, will increase from 14.5 percent in 1367 [88-89] to 17 percent in 1372 [21 March 1993-20 March 1994]. During the plan the share of investment by the non-government sector of all investments is estimated at about 52.8 percent.

3. Consumption

Experience and theory both show that as long as the foundations of domestic production do not grow in answer to demand, increased consumption cannot be provided for except through increasing consumption imports, and if there are foreign exchange shortages as we have had in recent years, this will lead to increased prices. Therefore consumption and the creation of demand can promote growth and expansion in the country when production is not dependent, or if it is dependent, the trade gap (exports minus imports) will not be considered a binding limitation on economic decision making. In general, in following a course of expansion and moving towards a relatively desirable economic situation a society must go through a period of transition. The period needs more effort and seriousness, and avoiding the tendency to consume in order to procure investment resources.

In recent years, because of the increase in the government's budget deficit and its consequent effect on increased prices, government costs, which have been increasing at current prices, have been decreasing at fixed prices. This means that the inflation created by the budget itself caused a decline in real government costs. In view of the policy of the plan with regard to decreasing the budget deficit the next five years and as the result of the drop in the rate of inflation, the government's consumptions costs will increase at fixed prices. The annual growth of the government's consumer costs at fixed prices is expected to increase an average of about 3.8 percent.

4. Inflation

The volume of currency in circulation, which is mostly caused by the increase in the government sector's indebtedness to the Central Bank during the past five years, will decrease an average of 8.2 percent per year, so that from 23.8 percent in 1367 [88-89] it will drop to 3.5 percent in 1372 [93-94]. In view of the rate of growth of gross domestic product and the volume of currency in circulation anticipated in the plan, the growth in the indicator for consumer goods and services will decrease from about 28.5 percent in 1367 [88-89] to 8.9 percent in 1372 [93-94]. This trend shows the gradual anchoring of inflation compared to past years.

[5.] Manpower and Employment

- Annual creation of about 394,000 jobs throughout the plan
- Reduction in the percent of service jobs from the current 47.2 percent to 45.5 percent in the final year of the plan
- Increasing the per capita employment rate by 5.2 percent per year
- Increasing the percentage of scientific, technical, and specialist workers from the current 9.6 percent to about 10.7 percent by 1372 [93-94].

Policies to Implement the Plan

A characteristic of a constructive plan is that it has a set of policies connected to each set of goals in the plan. Therefore, in the matter of policies also, one can obtain a comprehensive list, but in view of the fact that the text of the plan is available, as we continue only a few of the most important policies will be mentioned.

1. Movement towards equilibrium in prices and a functioning price mechanism
The belief is almost universal among economic experts that in the structure of expanding economies, market activity and reliance on it as the main method of allocating economic resources does not work. A phenomenon known as "breaking the market" is well-known among economists.

Alongside the above theoretical malfunction, the pricing mechanism in Iran's economic system after the triumph of the Islamic revolution has been faced in practice with even more severe oscillations, with various forms of government intervention and under the influence of external shocks and fluctuations in foreign exchange. To make use of this mechanism, efforts to reduce intervention and reform the existing instability are being looked at in the framework of the first plan as the first and perhaps the most basic step towards extensive reform.

2. Gradual and Phased Movement To Improve Foreign Exchange Rates
Obtaining a favorable foreign exchange rate in an economic system and stabilizing it as an effective tool for economic and commercial decision making is unquestionably confirmed by all the economic experts in the world. In view of its foreign exchange revenues in the past and the huge volume of imports it had, the Islamic Republic of Iran is always faced with the issue of choice and making use of an effective foreign exchange rate in the process of economic and social decision making. This has meant that in the process of setting the nation's foreign trade policy, in the past the government always used direct and indirect policies to set various rates for use in carrying out various economic and commercial activities in society. The method of setting several rates for foreign exchange exacerbated the problems of the past in this matter, and currently because the country does not have an effective foreign exchange rate, the process of the nation's economic and social decision making suffers.

On the other hand, for various domestic and international reasons, it was not possible to make instant changes in this area, and the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran was forced to adopt a gradual process in making reforms in this area, and it is hoped that in the framework of the first national expansion plan a balanced and effective foreign exchange rate will be established.

3. Implementing the Necessary Incentives to Expand Non-Petroleum Exports
The economic structure of Iran, for various reasons such as the implementation of unsound policies in the past,

has become severely dependent on revenue obtained through the export of crude oil to the markets of the world. Currently more than 95 percent of the nation's foreign exchange is obtained through this means. This dependence, just as was noted previously, has subjected the nation's economic system to severe external shocks produced by fluctuations in price and demand on the world oil market.

In the changing world economic system, it is also clear that no society can procure all of its needs domestically, and such a thing is not logical from the economic standpoint or from the point of view of effective use of resources. Therefore the logical strategy of economic growth and expansion in every country and the degree of its success or lack of success is severely dependent on the fateful choice of how to use its domestic resources to meet its current and future needs nationally and internationally.

Iran's main strategy before the triumph of the Islamic revolution was essentially internally oriented, and was said to be aimed at replacing imports. This strategy, after the triumph of the Islamic revolution of Iran, due to the onset of the imposed war and other factors which have been mentioned, has mainly been followed, and this has meant that currently under the best of conditions, the nation's non-petroleum exports remain at about $1 billion annually, and less than 10 percent of these products are industrial.

Therefore, getting out of this deadlock and diversifying the nation's economic structure as an inevitable way to achieve economic growth and expansion in the future needs a change in the direction of the nation's commercial strategy and the establishment of a comprehensive movement to expand the nation's exports and modify their makeup.

For this purpose, in the First National Five-Year Economic, Social, and Cultural Expansion Plan, $17.8 million has been provided for non-petroleum exports, of which $9 billion, or 51 percent, is for industrial exports. It will undoubtedly be impossible to achieve the above goal without comprehensive support policies for this purpose by the government. Among the policies that have recently been adopted for this purpose can be cited the policy of marketing goods which are produced in Iran from foreign exchange obtained from exports, and to support producers of these goods, the products are exempt from any form of price setting or government intervention.

4. The Assignment and Transfer of Some Government Responsibilities and Capacities to the Non-Government Sector

One characteristic of a war economy is extensive government intervention in various dimensions of society's economic life. These interventions, which cover a broad range of processes in distribution, production, consumption, and pricing, in the final analysis cause an increase in the government's share in economic activity, expansion of the government's costs, and the growth and expansion of the ineffectiveness of an economic system in general. Increasing the volume of government activities and expanding the aforementioned costs will ultimately lead to the creation of a high and extensive government budget deficit, and consequently extensive borrowing from the banking system. The aforementioned deficit on the one hand reduces flexibility in the structure of the government budget as a tool for implementing financial policy, and on the other hand borrowing from the banking system and increasing the volume of currency in circulation through this means damages the effectiveness of monetary policy. The logical way to get out of this deadlock is to reduce the volume of government activity and transfer and assign part of its responsibilities to the non-government sector of society.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has a relatively extensive government sector which includes more than 300 government mother companies, some of which also have affiliated companies. The transfer of some of these companies, which account for about 20 percent of the gross domestic product as a sector in the nation's economic system, and which account for about 60 percent of the government's payments and revenues in the annual budget, is a policy in the First National Five-Year Economic, Social, and Cultural Expansion Plan, and is on the government's agenda.

5. Changing the Government's Financial Structure

Along with reducing the volume of the government's intervention and activity in the nation's economic system to achieve greater flexibility in the nation's monetary and financial policies, changes to the structure of the government's budget are basic and unavoidable. Among the unhealthy features of the Iranian government's budget structure is the limited volume of taxes in its revenue makeup, and the administrative and organizational malfunctions of the nation's taxation system. This has meant that up to 1988 the percentage of taxation in the gross domestic product was 4.4 percent, and a comparison of that with the same figure for other countries of the world and the region shows clearly its disproportionate position. In the framework of the First National Five-Year Economic, Social, and Cultural Expansion Plan, with the necessary administrative reforms, the share of tax revenues in the nation's gross domestic product will be 8.4 percent of the gross domestic product in the final year of the plan. The primary goal of these taxes, apart from procuring revenue for the government, is to divert resources from the non-productive sector to sectors in society that are more productive economically.

6. Reducing the Rate of Population Growth

The government of the Islamic Republic of Iran believes that the results of the efforts being made will be reflected in the best way possible in the economic indicators when these efforts are supported with controls on the size of the population and finally controls on the volume of society's consumer demand. Various policies have been provided in the national expansion plan to create such an atmosphere of support for activities aimed at improving the indicators pertaining to the quality of life. Despite this, the central policy of concern in this area is that of reducing the rate of the nation's population growth, and in view of the essence of population change, in the short term it is really not possible to make changes in that area. The Islamic Republic of Iran hopes to decrease the rate of population growth to 2.9 percent by the end of its first expansion plan.

7. Establishing Economic Cooperation with Other Countries
Just as was previously noted, the Islamic Republic of Iran welcomes all possibilities in the framework of bilateral and multilateral cooperation to achieve the goals of the nation's first expansion plan and which are possible within its terms. In the nation's first expansion plan, the kinds of cooperation in question are given in Note 29 of the law, including the following:

(A) Authorization to the Central Bank to make commitments of $7.5 billion to obtain foreign exchange resources to complete and implement the industrial and production investments (the commitments made will be repaid after the units go into operation on a minimum payment schedule of five years, and the Central Bank may pay a maximum of 10 percent of each contract as a down payment).

(B) Authorization to the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran to make commitments up to $1.5 billion to create an agricultural and industry unit for sugar (repayment of the commitments made will begin a minimum of one year after the units go into operation in five-year installments).

(C) Authorization to sign long-term credit contracts up to $3 billion to create four dams in the country. In addition to the above matters, the nation's first expansion plan also authorizes the government to make the following foreign exchange transactions:

1. Presale of up to $2.2 billion in the nation's petrochemical products.

2. Utilization of reciprocity transactions up to $10 billion to alleviate part of the needs of the mining and industry sectors in matters pertaining to the relevant production, exports, and investments.

3. Making the necessary contracts with competent foreign companies up to $3.2 billion to procure gas for domestic consumption and exports and to make use of the Pars and South Pars gas fields guaranteed by the Central Bank of Iran by the National Iranian Oil Company (repayment of the investment costs will be made through production from the above gas fields).

In addition to the aforementioned measures to expand international cooperation and the possibility for the nation's economic growth and expansion, the creation of free trade and industrial zones and the adoption of policies to remove customs obstacles are some of the Islamic Republic of Iran's other policies for the coming years.

Nepal & Bhutan

Nepal

Communists Stage Protest March for Constitution

*BK2309003490 Hong Kong AFP in English
1739 GMT 22 Sep 90*

[Text] Kathmandu, Sept 22 (AFP)—Some 5,000 youths and activists of the pro-Soviet Nepal Communist Party marched in the capital Saturday to demand the promulgation of a democratic constitution and controls on rising prices. The peaceful march started from Basantpur, the centre of Kathmandu township, and was led by party General Secretary Bishnu Bahadur Manandhar and the minister for labour, social welfare and tourism, Nilamber Acharya.

The Nepal Communist Party is a member of the United Left Front (ULF), which shares power in the ruling coalition. The protestors held placards demanding that King Birendra promulgate a new constitution as soon as possible to create a constitutional monarch and a multiparty system.

A draft constitution was delivered to the king on September 10 and is now in the hands of Prime Minister Krishna Prasad Bhattarai pending review. King Birendra legalized political parties and appointed Mr. Bhattarai, a senior leader of the Nepali Congress, as prime minister in April after 10 weeks of violent protests for democracy that left 500 people dead and more than 1,000 wounded.

Ministers Reach Consensus on Constitution

*BK2409154290 Hong Kong AFP in English
1512 GMT 24 Sep 90*

[Text] Kathmandu, Sept 24 (AFP)—The Council of Ministers of Nepal's coalition government has reached consensus on fundamentals of the new draft constitution, the Cabinet said in a statement Monday.

The Council "has also agreed to ask King Birendra to set a date for the promulgation of the constitution in the next few days after discussing a few technicalities," the statement said.

A highly placed source said the Nepali Congress Party of Prime Minister Krishna Prasad Bhattarai had decided to let the constitution be ratified as it stands with only a few technical changes.

Leaders of the Nepali Congress have decided that any changes to Articles 123 and 128—which pertain to constitution and foreign policy amendments respectively—are to be made by parliament after elections in April, 1991.

Left-wing factions earlier accused the Nepali Congress of being involved in a conspiracy with the Royal Palace to amend the draft constitution and retain certain sovereign powers.

Article 123 says any bill submitted to parliament, if passed by a two-thirds majority, will be presented for approval to the king, who must ratify the bill or refer if back to parliament for reconsideration within 30 days.

If the same bill, without changes, again passes by a two-thirds majority the king must ratify the bill within 30 days.

Any bill that would change the basic structure of the constitution can be introduced with approval of one-third of the total membership of either the upper or lower house.

If the bill is passed by a three-quarters majority of the joint house and approved by the king, it shall be put to a public referendum. If a straight majority of the people approve the bill, the constitution will be amended accordingly.

A pro-Indian lobby had objected to Article 128, which requires a two-thirds majority in a joint session of parliament to allow foreigners to explore or develop natural resources in Nepal.

The article deals with the "ratification, accession, acceptance and approval of treaties and agreements" with India and other countries.

Sources said the council of ministers, in waiting until after elections to make any major changes in the constitution, hoped to avoid trouble from leftist groups calling for immediate promulgation of the original draft. (endall) pc502409.023 241512 pmccormack/vp 24/1545z sep

Prime Minister Affirms Strong Ties With China

BK2409091090 Hong Kong AFP in English
1624 GMT 23 Sep 90

[Text] Kathmandu, Sept 23 (AFP)—Prime Minister Krishna Prasad Bhattarai said Sunday that Nepal's ties of friendship with China ran "as deep as the Pacific Ocean, as high as Mt. Everest and as vast as the universe."

Mr. Bhattarai made the remarks while speaking at a function organised here Sunday by Nepal China Friendship Association, according to state-run radio.

The prime minister added that non-alignment, promotion of the principles underlying the U.N. Charter and important points relating to the promotion of world peace are the principal features of Nepal's foreign policy.

Relations between Nepal and China remain unaffected by their ties with other countries, he said, adding that relations between the two neighbours cannot be overshadowed or strained by contacts with third countries.

Nepal gives great importance to its ties of friendship with China and a big contingent sent by Nepal to participate in the 11th Asian Games in Beijing testifies to this fact, Mr. Bhattarai said.

Bhutan

200 Said Killed as Dissidents, Army Clash

BK2409154690 Hong Kong AFP in English
1456 GMT 24 Sep 90

[Text] Kathmandu, Sept 24 (AFP)—Armed dissidents who entered the tiny Kingdom of Bhutan clashed with government troops last week, a spokesman for the dissidents and Bhutanese officials said.

Bhutan People's Party (BPP) spokesman D.P. Kafle said more than 200 people were killed and more than 1,500 arrested in the violence between September 19 and 22. The dissidents are of Nepalese origin and are now living in India, he added.

(A spokesman for the Bhutanese Embassy in New Delhi confirmed that there was "some violence" in the south of the Himalayan kingdom, but dismissed as "unbelievable" reports that 200 people were killed.

("Some dissidents came up across the border from the Indian state of West Bengal) to the Samchi area as well as other parts of southern Bhutan with guns, rifles and homemade hand grenades, with no provocation," the spokesman said.

(He said there "may be one or two casualties on our side," referring to government security forces, and "perhaps some casualties" on the dissidents' side. The spokesman added that he was "not sure" if anyone had been killed.)

Further on Incident

BK2409165990 Hong Kong AFP in English
1623 GMT 24 Sep 90

[By Kedar Man Singh]

[Excerpts] Kathmandu, Sept 24 (AFP)—Armed dissidents entered the tiny Kingdom of Bhutan and clashed with government troops, leaving casualties on both sides, a spokesman for the dissidents and Bhutanese officials said Monday.

Bhutan People's Party (BPP) Spokesman D.P. Kafle said more than 200 people were killed and more than 1,500 arrested in the violence between last Wednesday and Saturday. He also claimed troops raped some women demonstrators.

The dissidents are of Nepalese origin and are now living in the Indian border state of West Bengal, Mr. Kafle said by telephone from Birtamore, 390 kilometers (240 miles) southeast of here. [passage omitted]

Bhutanese of Nepalese origin are the majority in southern Bhutan and form 30 to 40 per cent of the total

Bhutanese population. They charge that King Jigme Singye Wangchuk is trying to achieve the "Bhutanesation" of the country.

They claim government discrimination in employment, and violations of human rights. The king introduced a code of conduct last year banning the Nepalese language and dress.

Mr. Kafle said that between September 19 and 22, a total of 22,000 people joined protest marches in seven areas in southern Bhutan.

He claimed that at Sebroo, 420 people were trapped by army troops and 40 of them were shot dead by the district officer, lhakpa Dorje. Many others were pushed over a mountain slope, he said quoting his party's reports.

The BPP spokesman said demonstrators belonging to the Bhutan Students Union and Bhutan Forum for Protection of Human Rights (BFPHR) last Thursday were blocked by bulldozers when the tried to cross a border bridge.

When they eventually crossed, the same district officer fired on the protestors, leaving at least six dead, Mr. Kafle said, adding that the next day the bodies of 21 others were found. He claimed the Bhutanese Army removed some bodies to unknown locations.

Mr. Kafle said the purpose of the marches was "to draw the world community's attention to the repressive measures adopted by the Bhutanese Government."

"The Bhutanese king has ordered to supress us," he said. He quoted reports from his party saying that 2,000 troops were deployed last Friday to thwart a demonstration by more than 10,000 people at Shantipur. He said witnesses at the border saw soldiers rape some women.

Mr. Kafle urged the London-based human rights group Amnesty International to investigate the incidents.

"If found untrue, we are prepared to be hanged publicly, and if true, the king should be strongly condemned and all foreign aid given to Bhutan should be stopped," he added.

The BPP spokesman said that last Friday at least 500 people were arrested after troops shot and killed 90 people, including women and teenage students, at Funtsoling.

The next day at Tugli, at least 20 were shot dead by the army men and several others were seriously injured, he added.

Meanwhile, Nepal Forum for Protection of Human Rights spokesman Prakash Kaphle said that a team would go to Bhutan in a day or two to investigate the reported violence before sending its findings to Amnesty International.

According to Bhutanese Deputy Home Minister Dasho Dago Tshering, dissidents of Nepalese origin now living in India have launched numerous raids into Bhutan in recent weeks. He said in a recent interview in the Bhutanese capital, Thimphu, that the dissidents in India numbered "maybe between 2,000 to 3,000."

The official accused them of "terrorism."

"They sneak into our villages at night, they coerce them (the people) to take arms and ammunition. They send threats saying if you don't join us, you will see how your family will survive," he said.

Pakistan

Ishaq Khan Returns From PRC 23 Sep

BK2309114590 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 23 Sep 90

[Excerpt] President Ghulam Ishaq Khan returned to Islamabad this afternoon after a four-day official visit to People's Republic of China. He was received at the airport by the prime minister, Mr. Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, and the chairman of Senate, Mr. Wasim Sajjad. Others present included the Punjab governor, Mian Mohammad Azhar; and AJK [Azad Jammu and Kashmir] President Sardar Mohammad Abdul Qayyum Khan; some federal ministers, services chiefs, and members of the diplomatic corps. [passage omitted]

Jatoi Asks India To Learn From Iraqi Isolation

BK2309115390 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 23 Sep 90

[Text] Prime Minister Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi has declared that any attempt to crush the struggle of the people in occupied Kashmir by force will not succeed. He said the Kashmiri people want freedom which is their legitimate right and no nation can be kept under subjugation for ever by use of force. He was speaking as a chief guest at a function held in Karachi last night to mark the Indian aggression against and the annexation of the formerly princely state of Southern Hyderabad.

The prime minister said the occupation of any state by use of force is against the norms of modern world, but, unfortunately, nations are still being subjugated by force. He said the dispute of Kashmir—a lifeline of Pakistan—is yet to be resolved in accordance with the UN resolutions. The prime minister referred to the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and said it reminds of the need for full defense preparedness to safeguard the independence against a possible aggressor. He said Pakistan has been following the principle that it wants to live in peace with all nations, but, at the same time, it is prepared to face any aggression.

Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi said India's dream of establishing its hegemony in the region and repeated use of its military might to achieve that end have created tension in its relations with Pakistan. He said India's relations with its neighbors can improve only if India abandons this attitude. The prime minister said that the manner in which the entire world has become united against Iraq for its aggression against Kuwait shows that aggression puts the aggressor in isolation, and the sooner India learns this lesson, the better. Mustafa Jatoi reiterated

Pakistan's resolve to continue to provide political, moral, and diplomatic support to the Kashmiri people struggling for freedom.

Jatoi Stresses Freedom in Remarks on Kashmir

BK2409164290 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 24 Sep 90

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Ghulam Mustafa Jotoi, has said the present freedom movement in held Kashmir is an important milestone in the history of freedom struggle and formed part of principles and spirit of Pakistan movement. The prime minister, who is also chairman of the Jammu and Kashmir [AJK] Council, was speaking while administering oath to the newly elected members of the Council in Islamabad today. He said the eyes of the whole world are focussed on Kashmir, because it symbolized a bridge between freedom and struggle for freedom throughout the globe. The prime minister said the entire nation is visualizing the dawn of the day, when people of occupied Kashmir will be free to decide their own future after excercising their right to self determination.

Mr. Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi congratulated the six members of the council on their election. The new members of the AJK council are Chaudhary Mohammad Sulaiman, Chaudhary Mohammad Yaqub, Mr. Habibur Rahman, Mr, Hameed Mufti, Mr. Tariq Farooq, and Chaudhary Mohammad Hassan.

Minister Details Measures To Overcome Oil Crisis

BK2409093190 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 24 Sep 90

[Text] The present government has evolved a multi-pronged operation to overcome the oil crisis by mobilizing sources and new markets in the Far East. This has been stated by the federal minister for petroleum and natural resources, retired Lieutenant General Abdul Majid Malik, while speaking in a TV program. He said that the oil situation was so demanding that the government focused its efforts on the procurement of oil despite problems of storage capacities. He said that a delegation (?will be) sent to the oil producing countries and a message from President Ghulam Ishaq Khan has already been delivered to King Fahd of Saudi Arabia in this connection. Short term tenders are also under process for the import of oil. The federal minister said that efforts were being made to resist the passing over of oil price hikes to the common man in spite of the fact that prices of oil have gone up the world over. He urged the people to curtail oil consumption and then to conserve energy and fuel.

Bhutto Receives Additional Show Cause Notice

BK2409163990 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 24 Sep 90

[Text] A special court comprising Mr. Justice Rashid Aziz Khan in Lahore today issued another show cause notice to the former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto Sahibah in the second presidential reference against her pertaining to allocation of Liquified Petroleum Gas [LPG] agency. The special court issued show cause notice after hearing the submission by the counsel of the referring authority, Mr. M.D. Zaman, and directed the former prime minister to appear before the court in person on 9 October to explain as to why she should be held guilty of misconduct under the Parliament and Provincial Assemblies Disqualification from Membership Order 19977.

Earlier, the council for the referring authority, Mr. M.D. Zaman Advocate, filed an affidavit on behalf of Mr. Munir Hussain, Director General, Ministry of Petroleum, and some additional documents to susbstantiate the charge that LPG agencies were allocated by the respondent to persons of her choice in violation of statutory rules and without fulfilling technical requirements. Mr. M.D. Zaman submitted that when the PPP [Pakistan People's Party] came to power, there were six major companies which were awarded contract of Liquified Petroleum Gas agencies out of which two agencies were dropped. The respondent Benazir Bhutto Sahibah allocated LPG agencies to four persons of her choice. The counsel submitted that in its view it was a clearcut case of favoritism and nepotism. He said the respondent had indulged in misuse of her power and it was a strict case of gross misconduct under Presidential Order 17 of 1977.

Sri Lanka

Flights Return 2,006 Nationals From Gulf

BK2409095590 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1245 GMT 23 Sep 90

[Text] The Foreign Ministry says in a communique that four flights arrived at the Katuyaka airport during the weekend bringing 1,198 stranded Sri Lankans in the Middle East under the accelerated program of repatriation. Two other flights financed by the International Organization for Migration also arrived in Katunayaka yesterday, bringing 688 passengers. The U.S. Air Force flights touched down at Katunayaka this morning bringing 120 Sri Lankans. A total of 2,006 persons stranded in the Gulf were repatriated during the weekend.

Iraqi Offer To Return Nationals Rejected

BK2409121390 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0839 GMT 24 Sep 90

[Text] Colombo, 24 Sept (LANKAPUVATH)—Sri Lanka has rejected a "tempting" offer by Iraq to fly back free of charge all Sri Lankans stranded in Kuwait and Iraq, if the aircrafts that bring Lankans to Sri Lanka are loaded with food and other essentials on their return journey.

"We have given our assent to the United Nations sanctions against Iraq and at whatever cost we will honour it", THE OBSERVER reports quoting a senior government official.

"We would be flouting the United Nations sanctions against Iraq, if we agreed to this. So we rejected this offer which came to us last week", he said.

Sri Lanka is facing difficulties in evacuating some of the stranded Sri Lankans. "They are mostly women, trekking through the deserts away from Kuwait.

Official estimates are that about 75,000 Sri Lankans mostly women are still stranded in and around the borders of Kuwait.

Loudspeaker announcements are being made in these border areas in order to bring these Sri Lankans to the Amman Airport to be flown back to Colombo, but there is hardly a response." [quotation marks as received]

Navy Destroys Guerrilla Leaders' Boat

BK2309065290 Hong Kong AFP in English 0622 GMT 23 Sep 90

[Text] Colombo, Sept 23 (AFP)—A Naval patrol destroyed a boat normally used by the "top brass" of the separatist Tamil guerrillas off Sri Lanka's northern coast, officials said Sunday. Military officials here said seven guerrillas of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) were killed and several arrested after the Naval patrol destroyed the boat carrying them about 40 kilometres (25 miles) off the coast of Point Pedro, the northern tip of the island.

"This is the type of boats normally used by the top brass of the LTTE hierarchy," one official said. The officials however could not say whether any top LTTE leader was among those killed or arrested. But they discounted the possibility that LTTE Supremo V. Prabhakaran being among them.

They said the Cougar-type boat was speeding from Mullaitivu, on the northeastern coast, towards India when the Navy intercepted and destroyed it. The boat was fitted with two outboard motors and a heavy machine gun, and its pilothouse was covered with a protective shield.

Meanwhile, about 20 armed rebels attacked the Sinhalese village of Omarakada in the Weli Oya area, on the northeast border, Saturday and shot dead three members of a family—father, mother and son—who were working in a rice field, the officials said.

Two daughters who were also in the field managed to escape, the officials said. Other villagers opened fire on the attackers, forcing them to flee, they added. In other incidents reported during the last 24 hours, police commandos, conducting cordon and search operations in the eastern Ampara District, shot dead six rebels at Kannadipuram and Thuraimadivadu and recovered hand grenades, 400 rounds of ammunition and cyanide capsules, they said.

They said the rebels continued a mortar and small arms attack on the Elephant Pass Army camp outside the Northern Jaffna Peninsula, but there were no casualties.

LTTE Leaders Killed in North, East

BK2109122790 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 21 Sep 90

[Text] The LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] cadres are now in disarray. They have lost about 76 of their leaders both in the Eastern Province and in the Northern Province. As the forces go along, they will be able to hit at the other leaders too. This was stated by the minister of plantation industries and state minister for defense, Ranjan Wijeratne, yeterday. He was briefing media personnel on the present situation in the northern and eastern parts of the country. The briefing was held at the Parliament complex. What is happening today is consolidation. The forces would liberate the hospital area in due course. This is the objective of the entire exercise. Once this is done, it will be handed over to the health authorities and placed under the supervision of the ICRC [International Committee of the Red Cross].

Referring to the situation in the Eastern Province, Minister Wijeratne said that there had been a major breakthrough in the Amparai District. The Special Task Force was able to locate the main base camp of the LTTE. They had captured 42 automatic weapons and rifles, a large quantity of ammunition amounting to about 11,000 rounds, grenades and also a large quantity of rice and sugar. The cadre belonging to the Kalmunai ASP [Assistant Superintendent of Police] was killed by the LTTE terrorists was also recovered [sentence as heard]. Similarly, in Trincomalee, the base camp near the navy headworks [word as heard] was also dealt with and many terrorists were killed. The forces recovered a large stock of weapons and ammunition. Mr. Wijeratne added that the forces were aware of the other hideouts of the LTTE in the Trincomalee District and these will also be dealt with.

With regard to the situation in and around the Jaffna fort, the minister pointed out that the forces had moved into the area surrounding the fort. There had been some resistance, because the forces were unaware of some of the old trenches where the LTTE cadres were hiding. This has to be dealt with before the forces proceeded. The situation in the Mullaitivu, Vavuniya, Mannar, and Kilinochchi areas has not changed although the forces had made some advances during the last two or three weeks in the Mulltaitivu areas.

Responding to a question, Mr. Wijeratane denied all talks of colonization. He said there was no colonization whatsoever. The policy of the goverment is that the people must go back to their original habitat, community they belonged to.

12 Die in Mulim-Tamil Clashes in Batticaloa

BK2309124490 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 23 Sep 90

[Text] During the last 24 hours ending at 1200 noon yesterday no major encounters have been reported between the security forces and the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists. Accoring to a Defense Ministry communique, in a violent clash between Tamils and Muslims in the village of Pudukkudiyiruppu, 12 miles south of Batticaloa, 12 persons, including six females, have died and more than 10 others injured. The security forces have brought the situation under control, and the situation is being closely monitored.

At Galkanda between (Kandakadu) and Singapura in the Polonnaruwa District, LTTE terrorists attacked a security forces mobile patrol, killing six soldiers and injuring three. In the exchange of fire, several terrorists died. Police, on information received, detected a container load of outboard motors, a large quantity of batteries, fiber boats in the knocked down condition, spare parts for outboard motors, military-type uniforms and polythene material consigned to one of the suspects, who is still missing in the murder of one of the former TULF [Tamil United Liberation Front] MP's [members of Parliament]. The container had arrived in Colombo from Singapore.

Latest intelligence reports indicate that the LTTE leadership has decided to trigger off clashes between the Muslims and Tamils, particularly Muslim majority areas in the Eastern province. It is intended to cover up the large-scale massacre of Muslims by LTTE terrorists in the last few weeks. Also it is intended to chase away the Muslims from their traditional homelands in the Eastern province with the view to disturbing the present ethnic ratio, which is said to be overwhelmingly in favor of the Muslims at the moment.